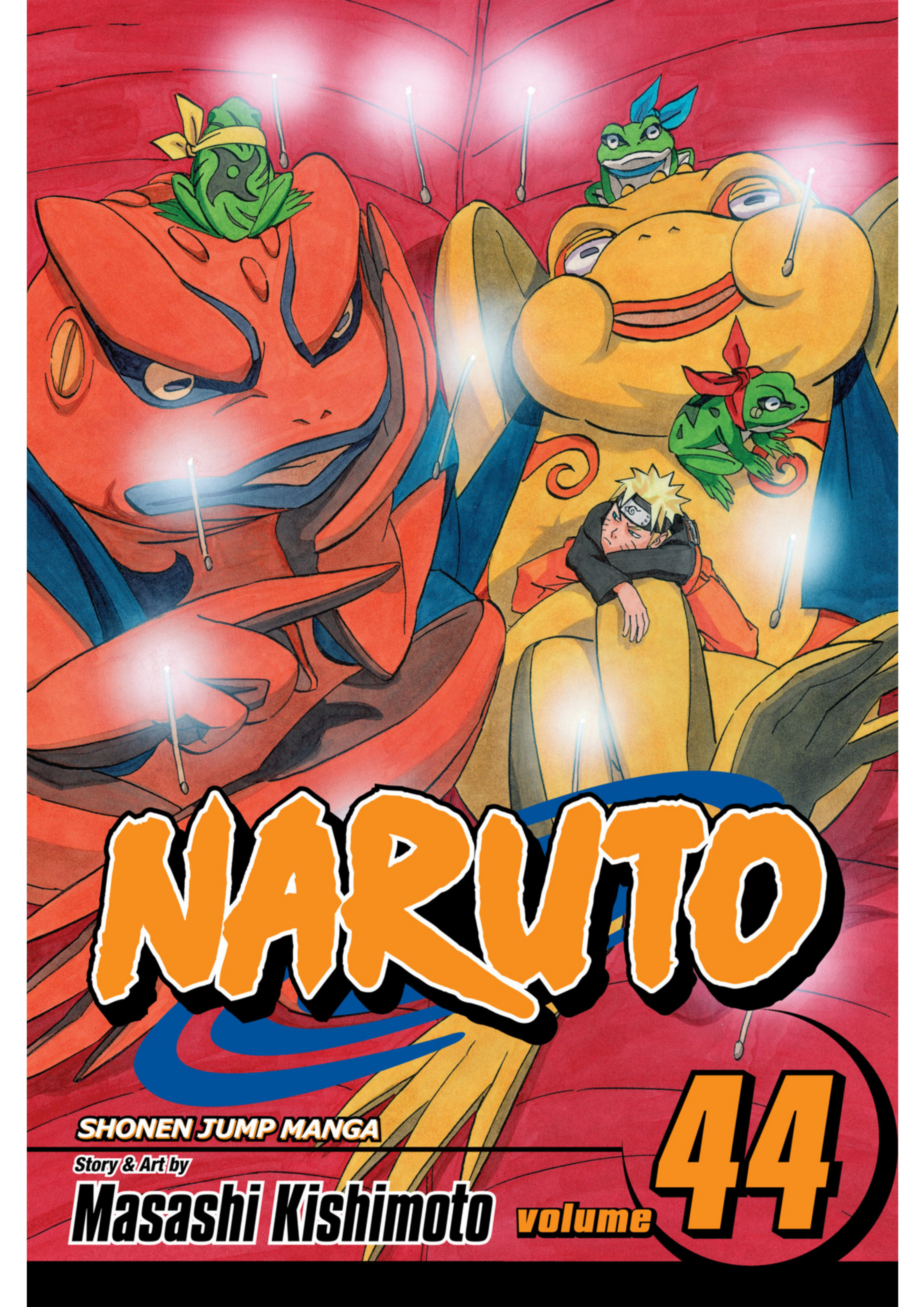

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 44



I went home to visit my parents for the first time in a long while. The clouds I saw out the airplane window were very pleasant and made me remember that I like clouds.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2008

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



NARUTO VOL. 44
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

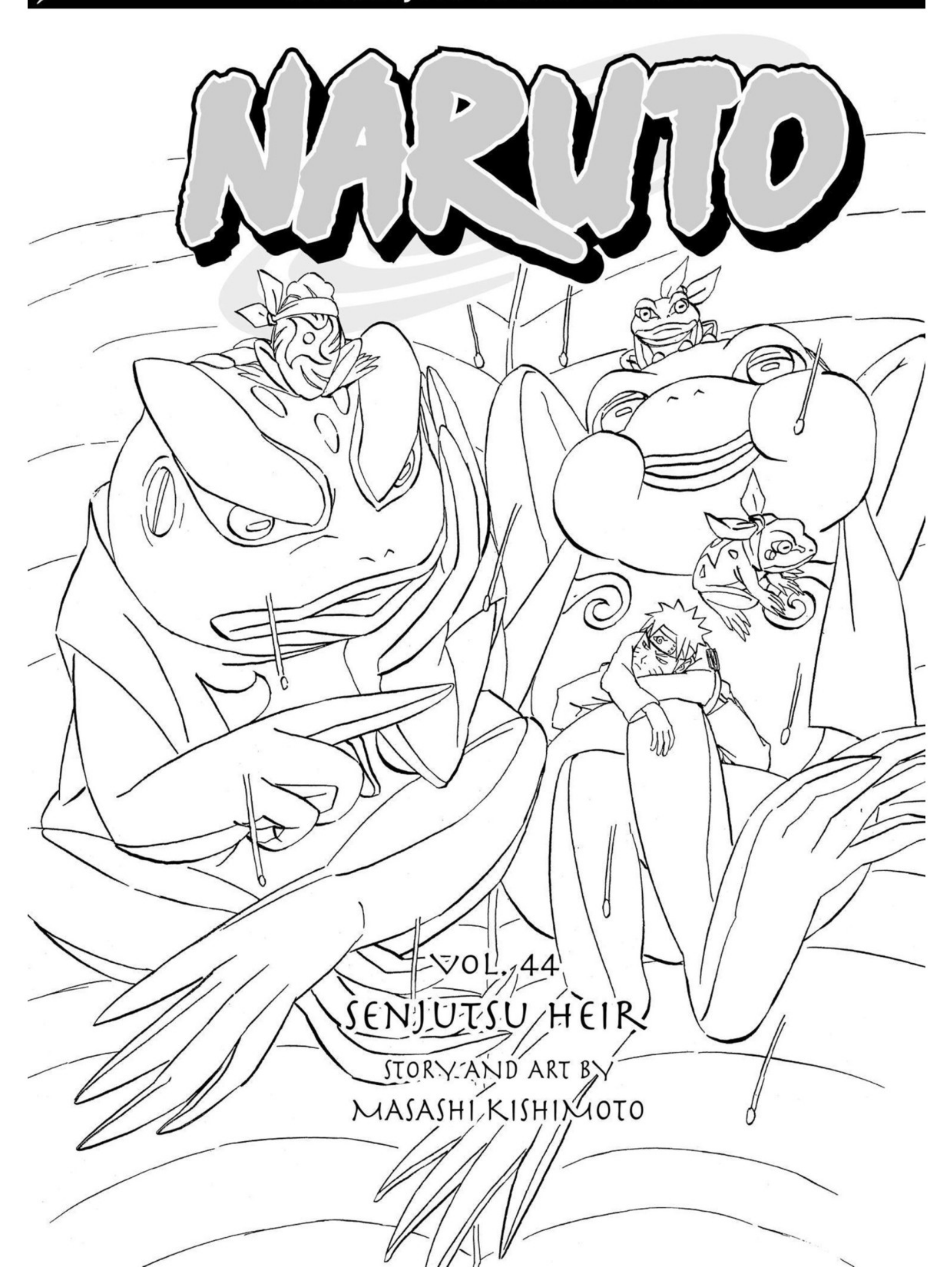
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CHARACTERS



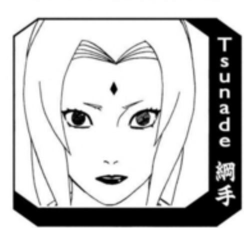




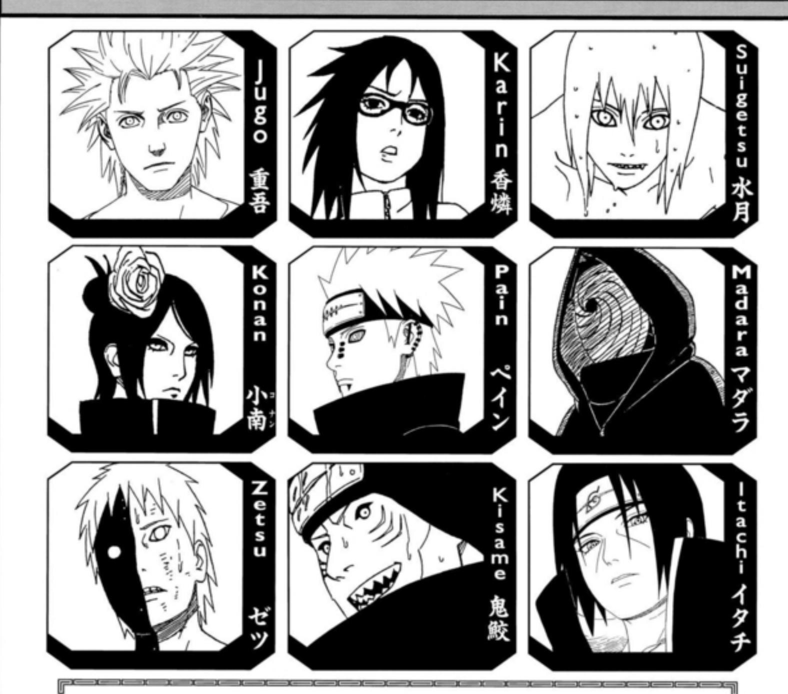












THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. They grow and mature through countless trials and battles. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek Orochimaru and his power…

Two years pass. Naruto and his comrades grow up and head out once more. As their fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki rage on, Sasuke rebels against Orochimaru and takes everything from him. Sasuke then gathers new companions and chases after Itachi. The heroic sibling battle eventually concludes with Itachi's grim death. Sasuke may have fulfilled his lifelong goal, but Madara then tells him the tragic truth about his older brother, Itachi–how he achieved revenge against the Uchiha clan by allowing Sasuke to defeat him and become Konaha's hero. After discovering Itachi's true motivations, Sasuke renames his team Taka, claiming to exist for one sole reason: to *destroy Konoha*!!

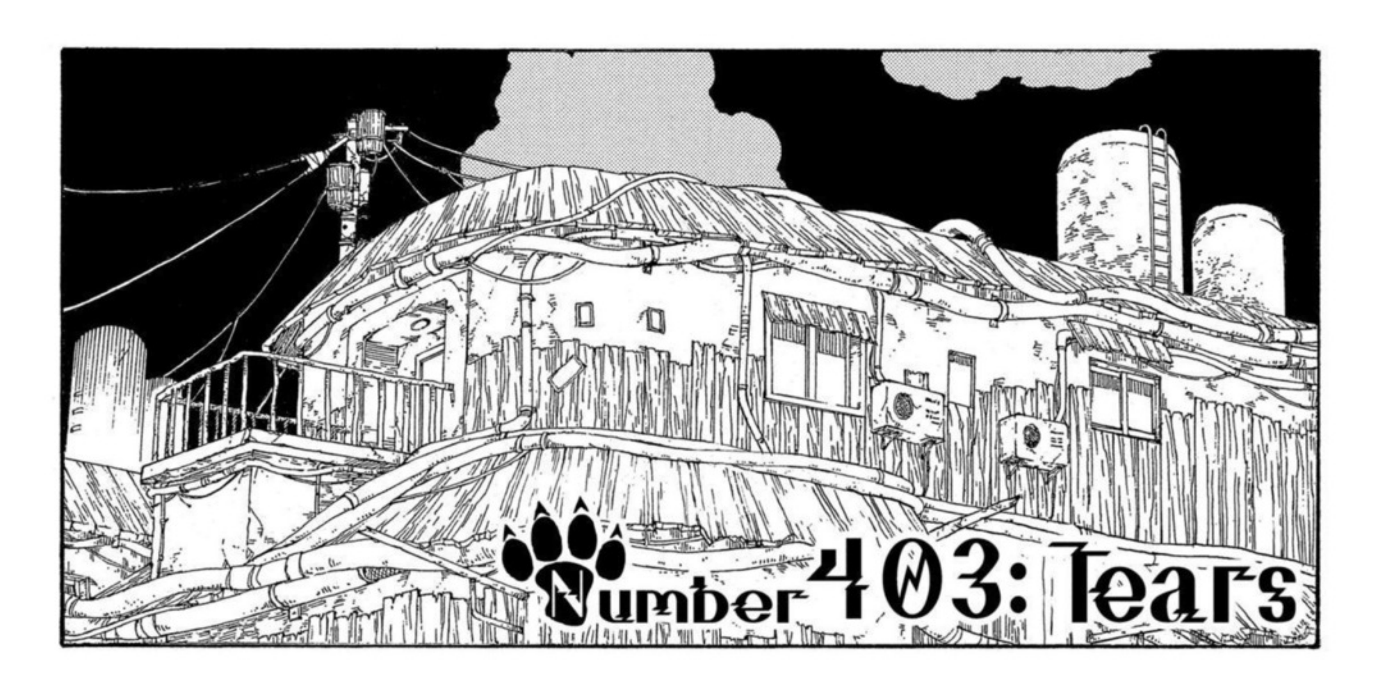


NARUTO

VOL. 44
SENJUTSU HEIR

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Number 403: Tears

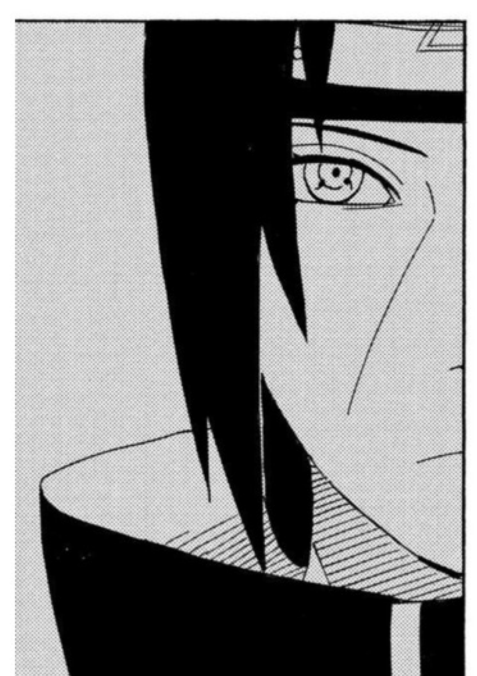

No bi
Noodle

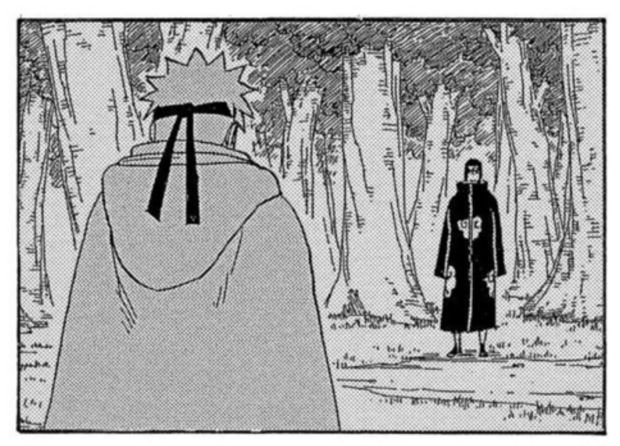


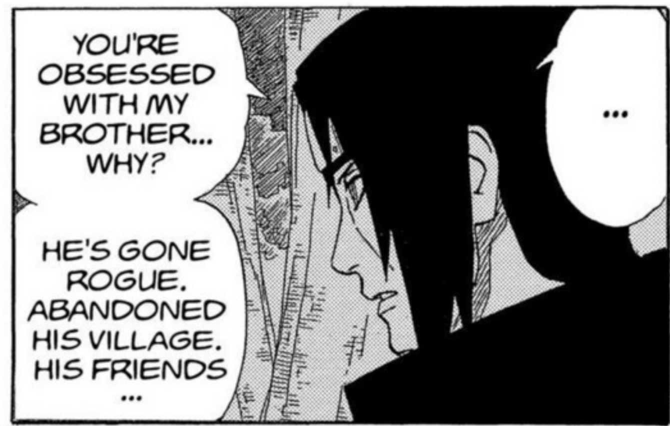



YOU'RE ALONE HERE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RUN.
WHAT-EVER!

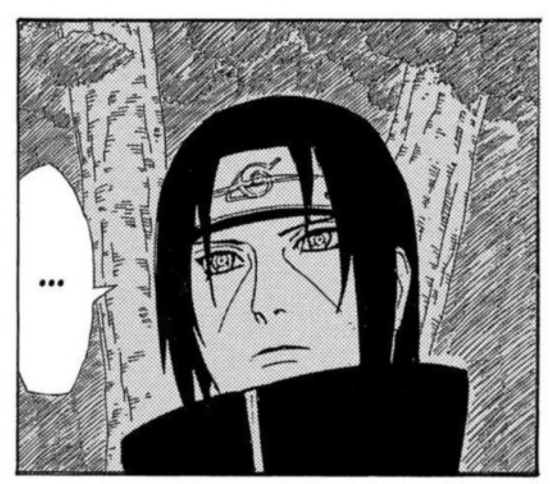

I CAN BE ANY NUMBER FROM ONE TO ONE THOUSAND!
BESIDES, WHY WOULD I WANT TO RUN?!
IF I CATCH YOU, I'LL GET TO SEE SASUKE AGAIN!!

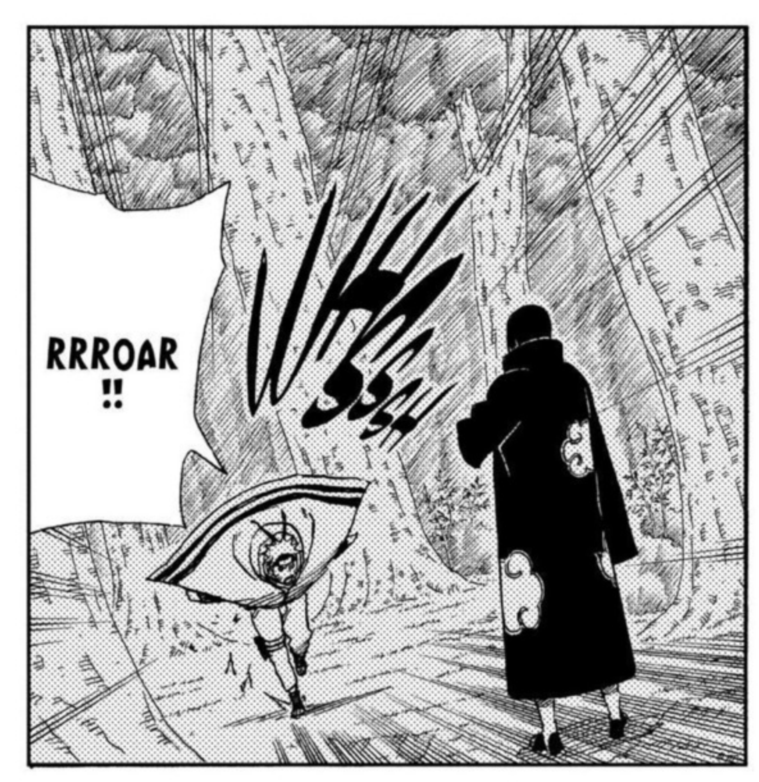





...
YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH MY BROTHER... WHY?
HE'S GONE ROGUE. ABANDONED HIS VILLAGE. HIS FRIENDS ...


WE MAY NOT BE BLOOD...
...BUT HE'S MORE OF A BROTHER TO ME THAN YOU ARE TO HIM!!


...


WHASSH
RRROAR !!





FLICK

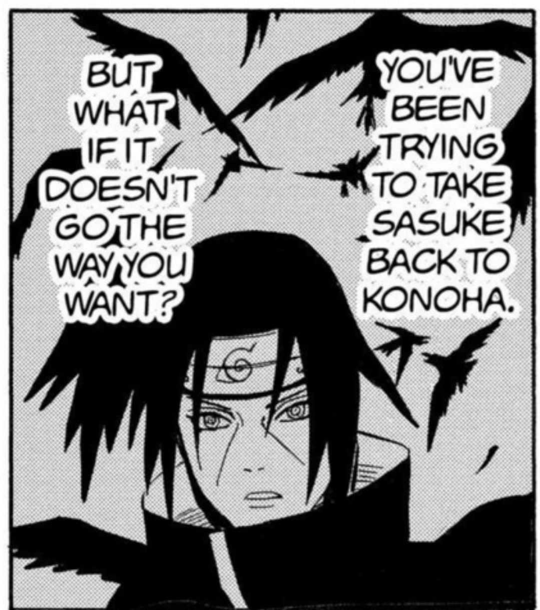
FLAP

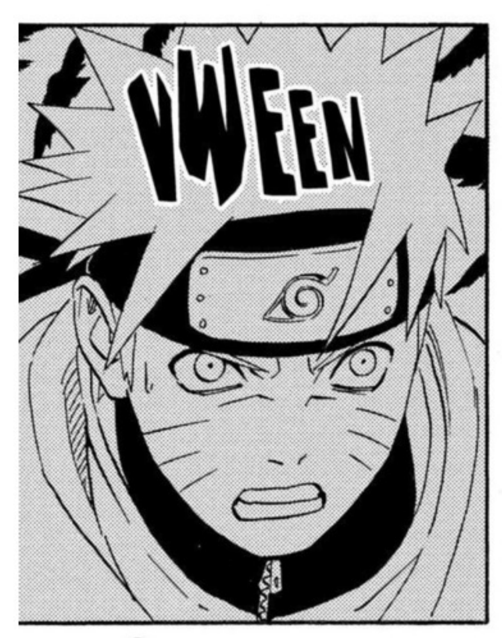
YOU ARE ALREADY WITHIN MY GENJUTSU.

...I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.

I JUST WANT TO TALK.





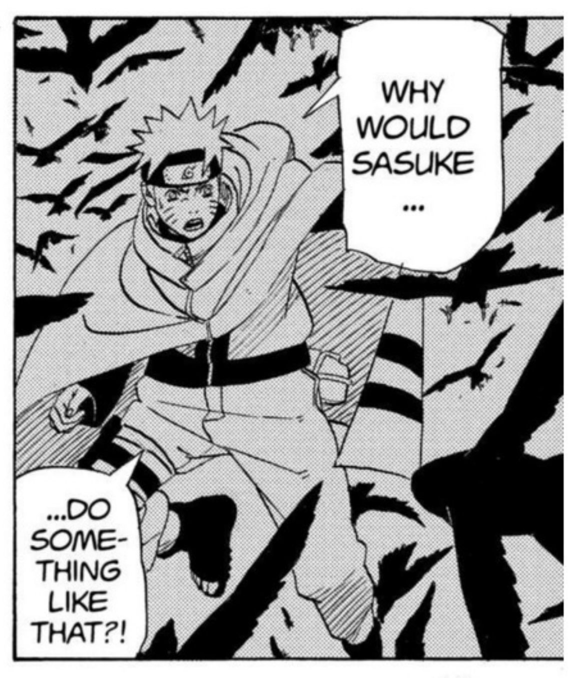


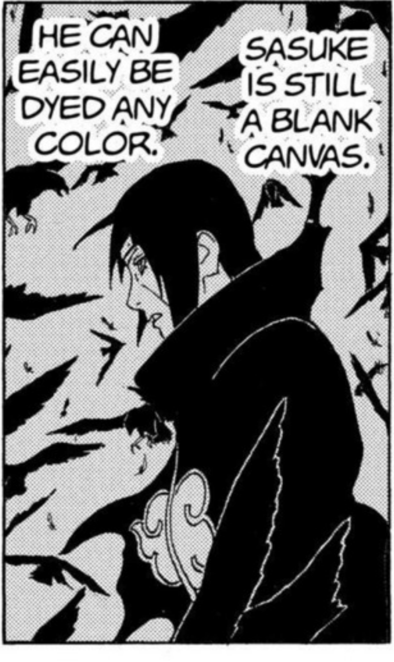

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!


EVEN IF BY FORCE, HUH... SURE, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, SASUKE WILL OBEDIENTLY RETURN TO THE VILLAGE.
BUT WHAT IF THE OPPOSITE HAPPENS?


HUH...?


YOU JUST SAID YOU CONSIDER SASUKE TO BE LIKE A BROTHER.
WHAT IF SASUKE WERE TO ATTACK KONOHA? WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?

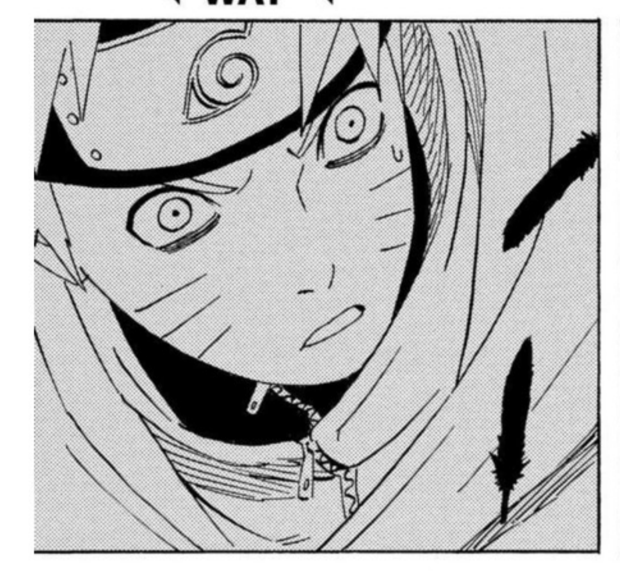

WHY WOULD SASUKE ...
...DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!

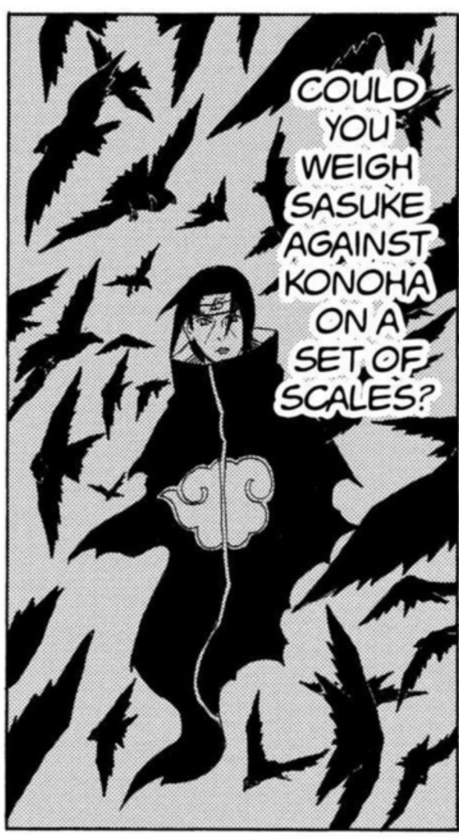

SASUKE IS STILL A BLANK CANVAS.
HE CAN EASILY BE DYED ANY COLOR.

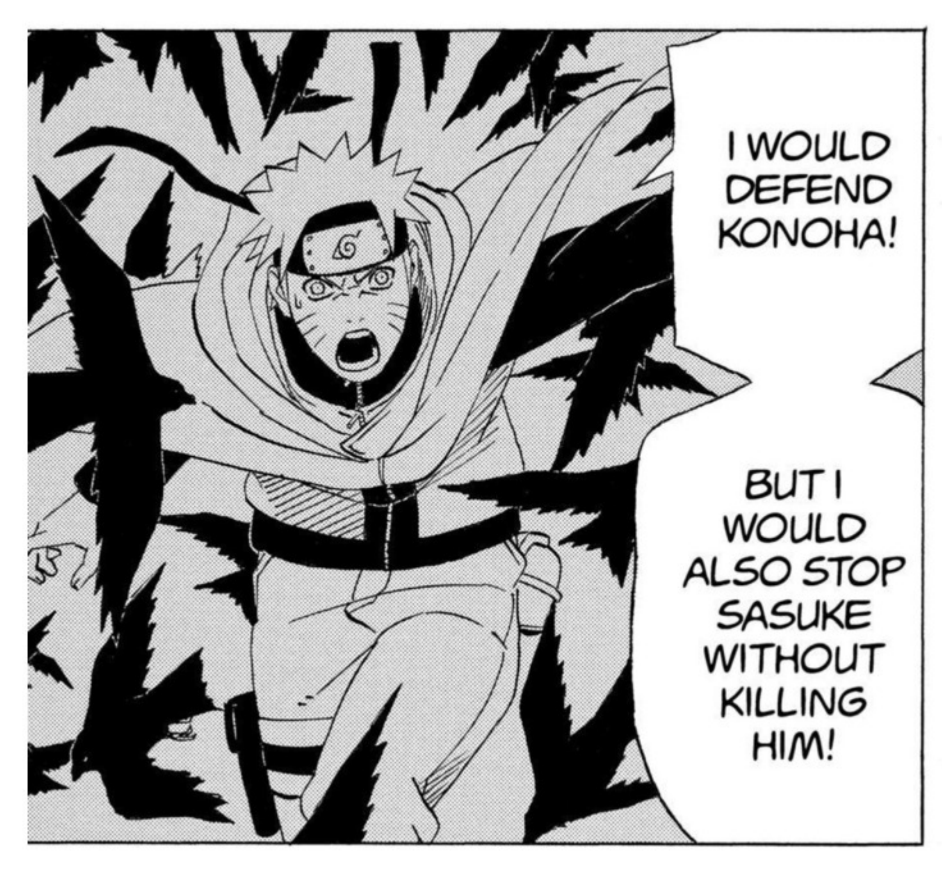

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO STOP HIM?

READ THIS WAY



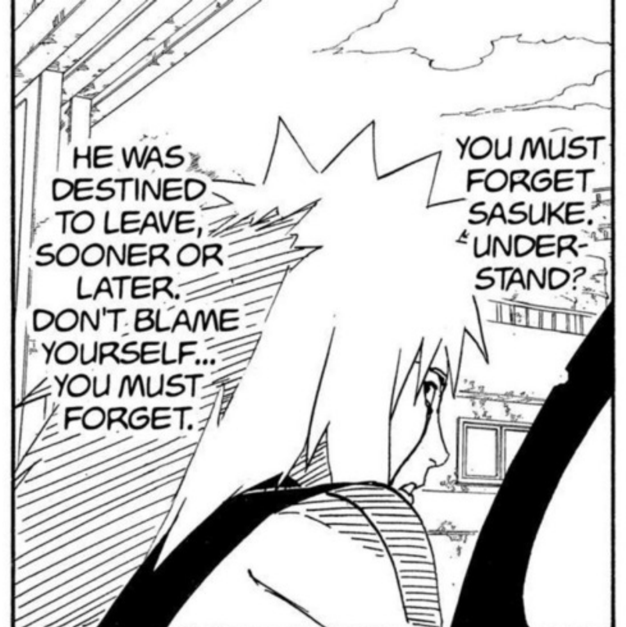




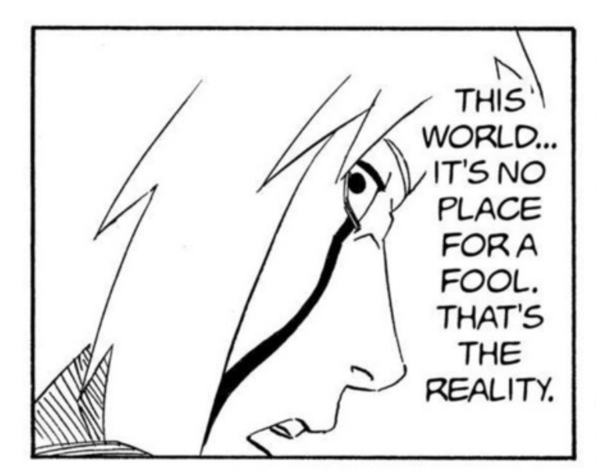







YOU MUST FORGET SASUKE. UNDERSTAND?
HE WAS DESTINED TO LEAVE, SOONER OR LATER. DON'T BLAME YOURSELF... YOU MUST FORGET.


TO BE SHINOBI, YOU NEED MORE THAN STRENGTH AND JUTSU... YOU MUST LEARN TO WEIGH YOUR OPTIONS AND MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS.
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE AS SHINOBI, YOU MUST BE SMARTER.

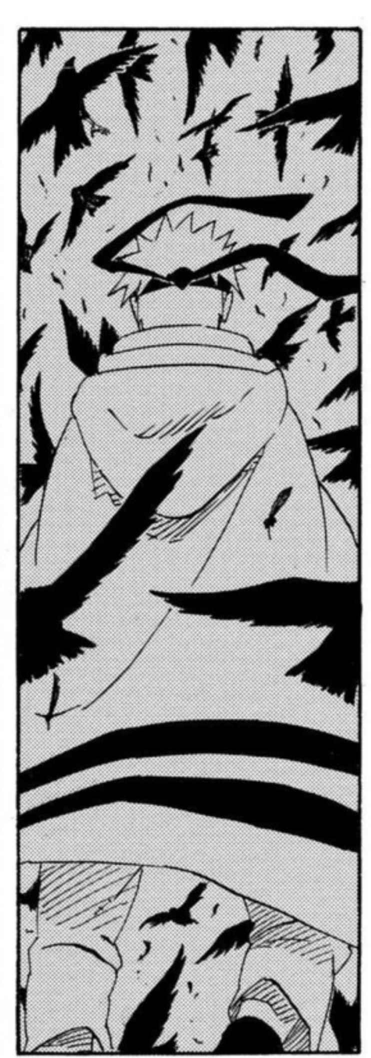

THIS WORLD... IT'S NO PLACE FOR A FOOL. THAT'S THE REALITY.


IF BEING SMART MEANS WHAT YOU SAY... I'LL REMAIN A FOOL MY ENTIRE LIFE.
EVEN IF I'VE GOT TO DO IT ALONE... I'M GONNA SPIN SOME INCREDIBLE JUTSU...
AND I'M GONNA RESCUE SASUKE, NO MATTER WHAT!

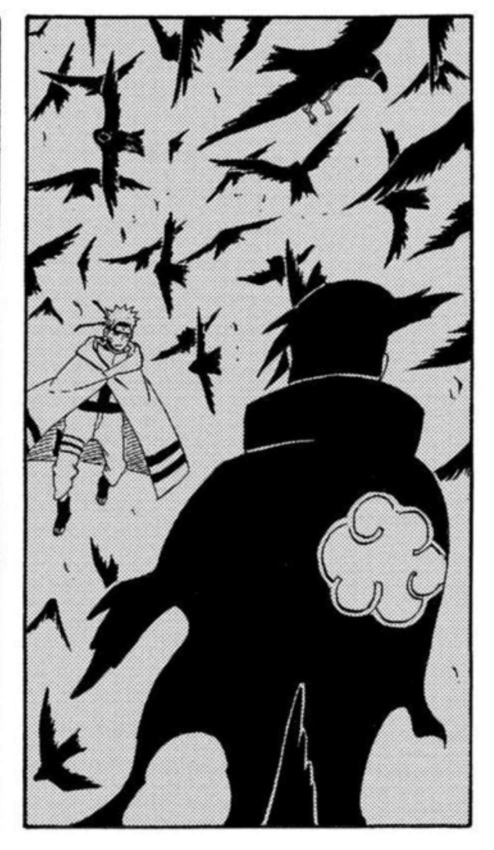

SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT BEFORE ...

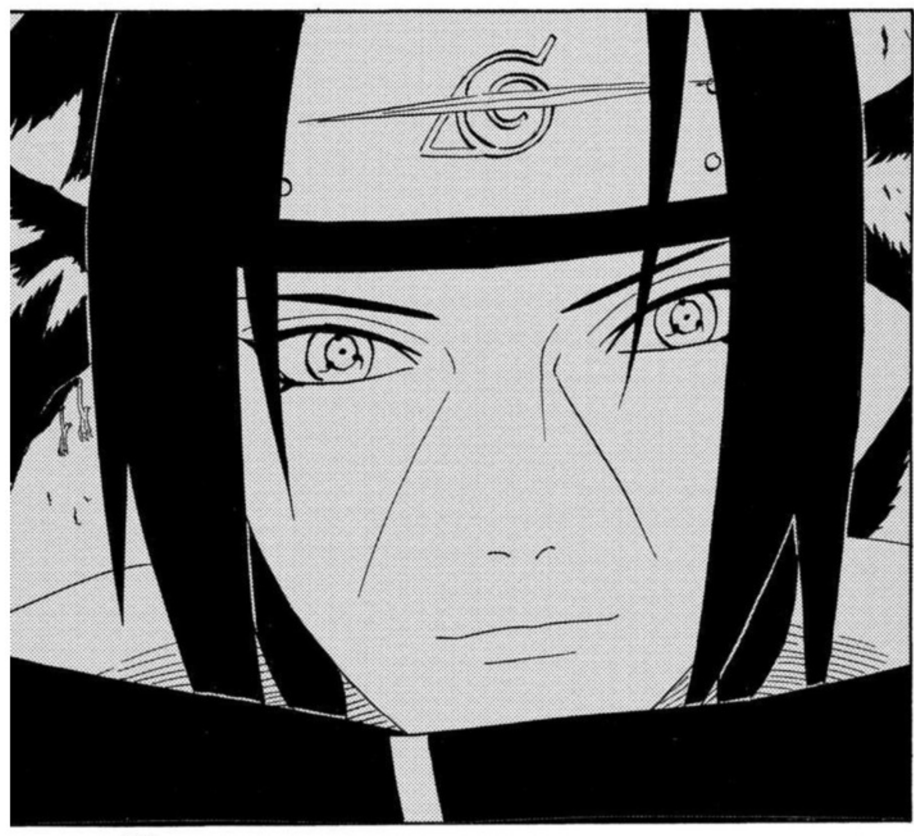

...BUT FOR ME, THERE IS NO CHOICE...


READ
THIS
WAY




I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD...
...THAT'S MY SHINOBI WAY!





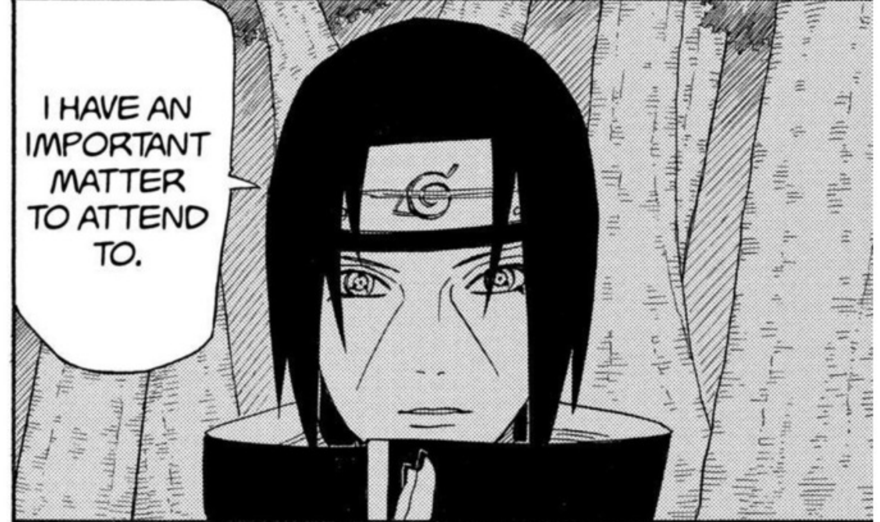

!


VWOP
UGH!

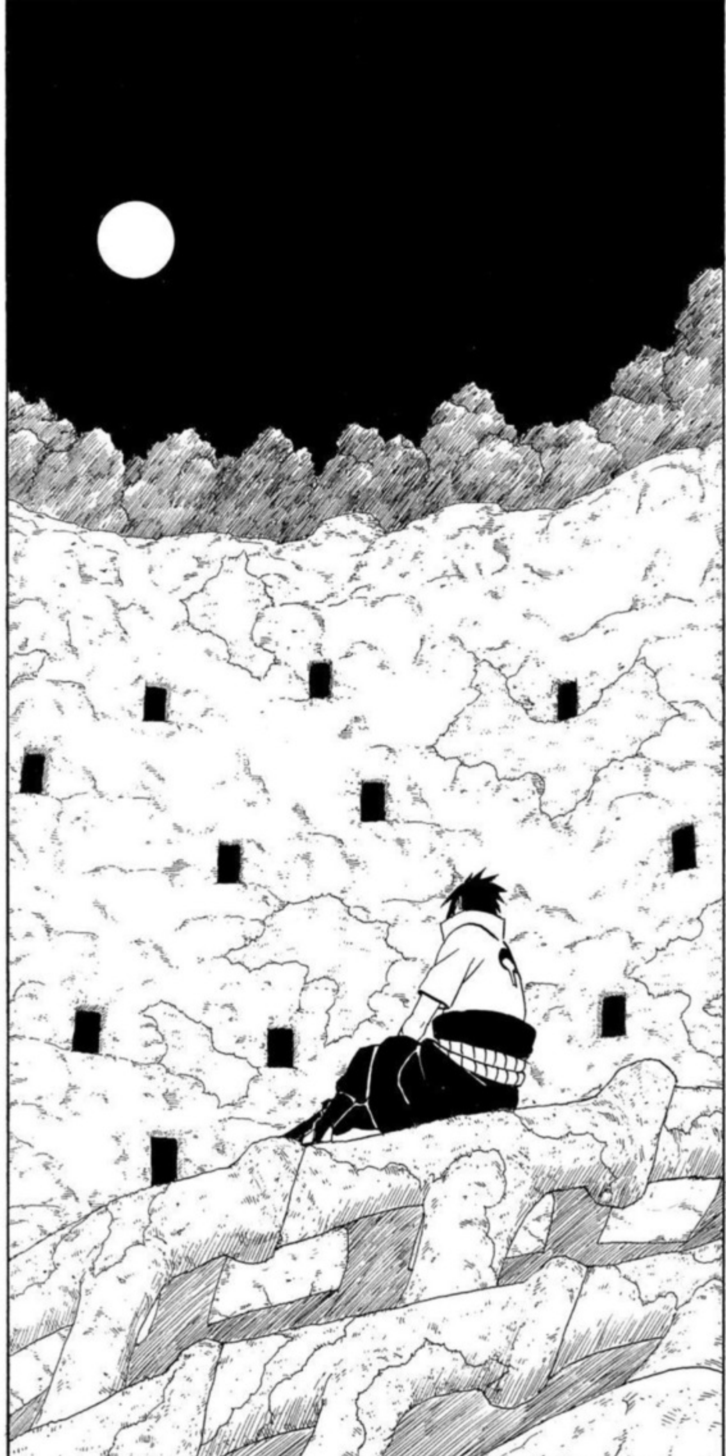

SWSH
I HAVE SHARED SOME OF MY POWER WITH YOU.
THOUGH I HOPE THE DAY WHEN YOU WILL HAVE TO USE IT NEVER COMES.

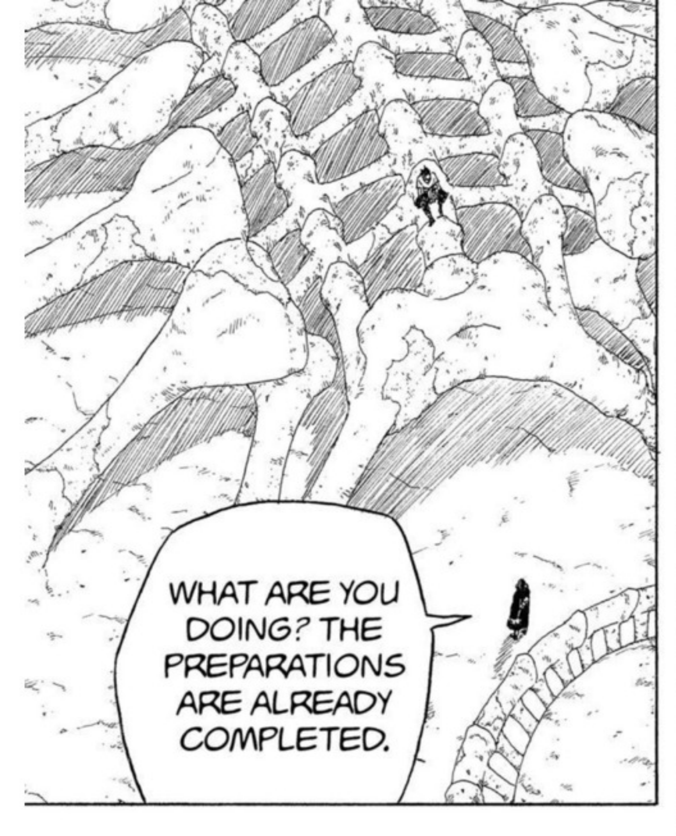

WHAT'S GOING ON?

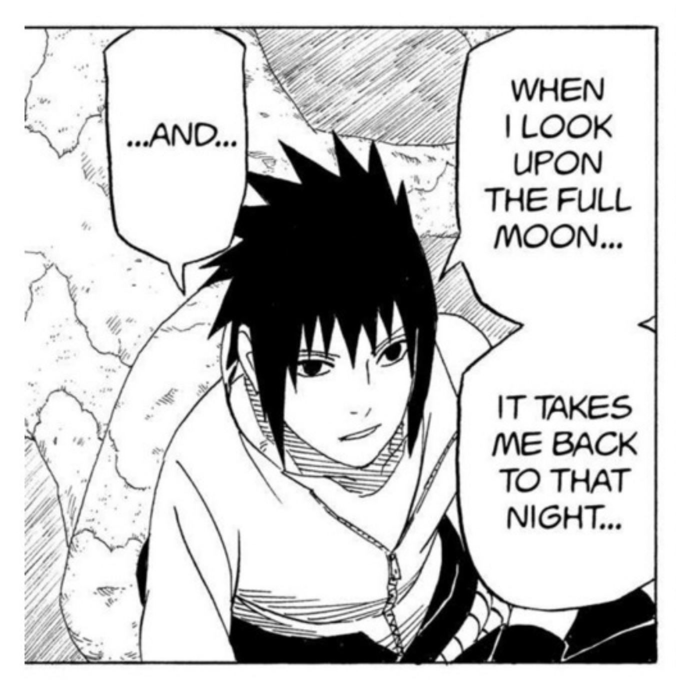

DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
COME ON! LET'S FINISH THIS!
I MUST GO...

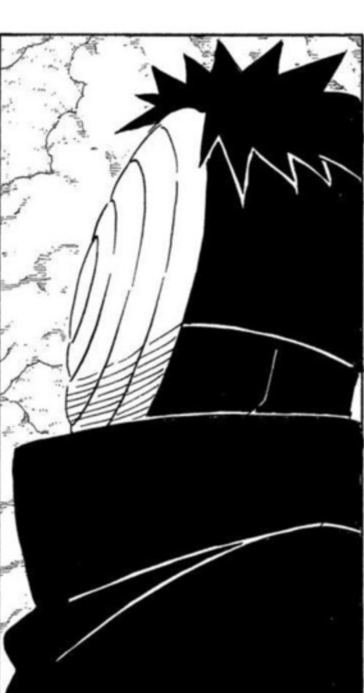

I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.



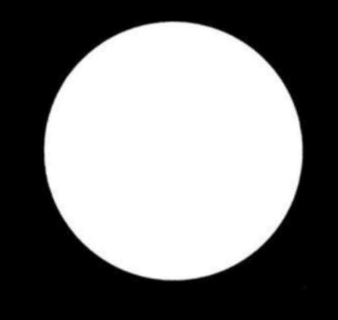



WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE PREPARATIONS ARE ALREADY COMPLETED.

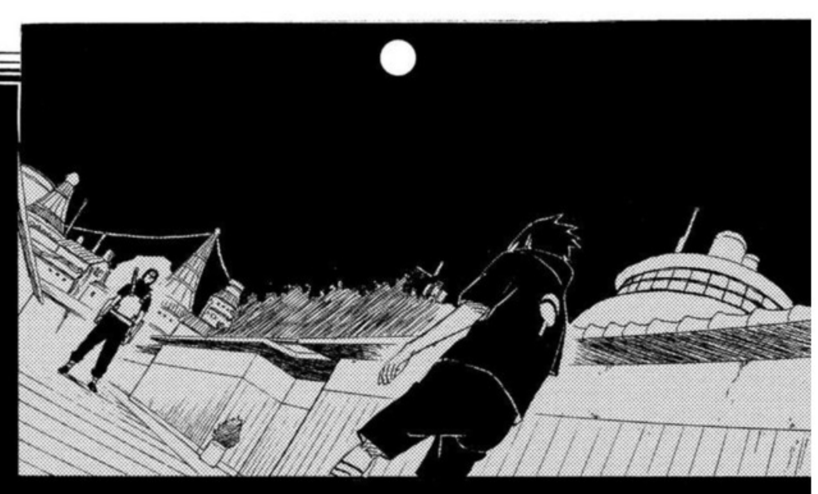

WHEN I LOOK UPON THE FULL MOON...
IT TAKES ME BACK TO THAT NIGHT...
...AND...




...MEMORIES I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FORGET.

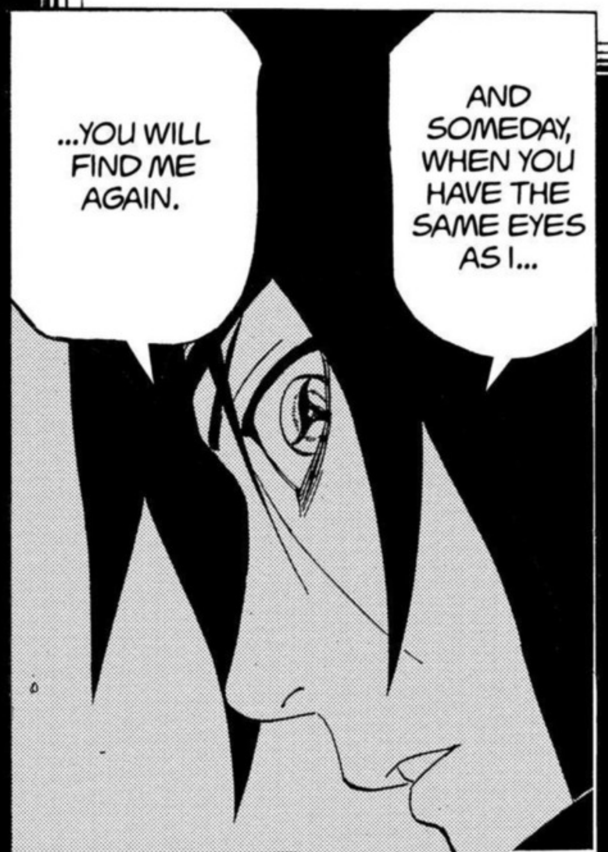


NOW I CAN FINALLY RECALL THINGS ABOUT ITACHI...
FAINT MEMORIES STORED DEEP IN MY HEART ARE FLOATING BACK TO THE SURFACE.





KEEP RUNNING... AND RUNNING ...
... CLINGING DESPERATELY TO LIFE!



AND SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU HAVE THE SAME EYES AS I...
...YOU WILL FIND ME AGAIN.



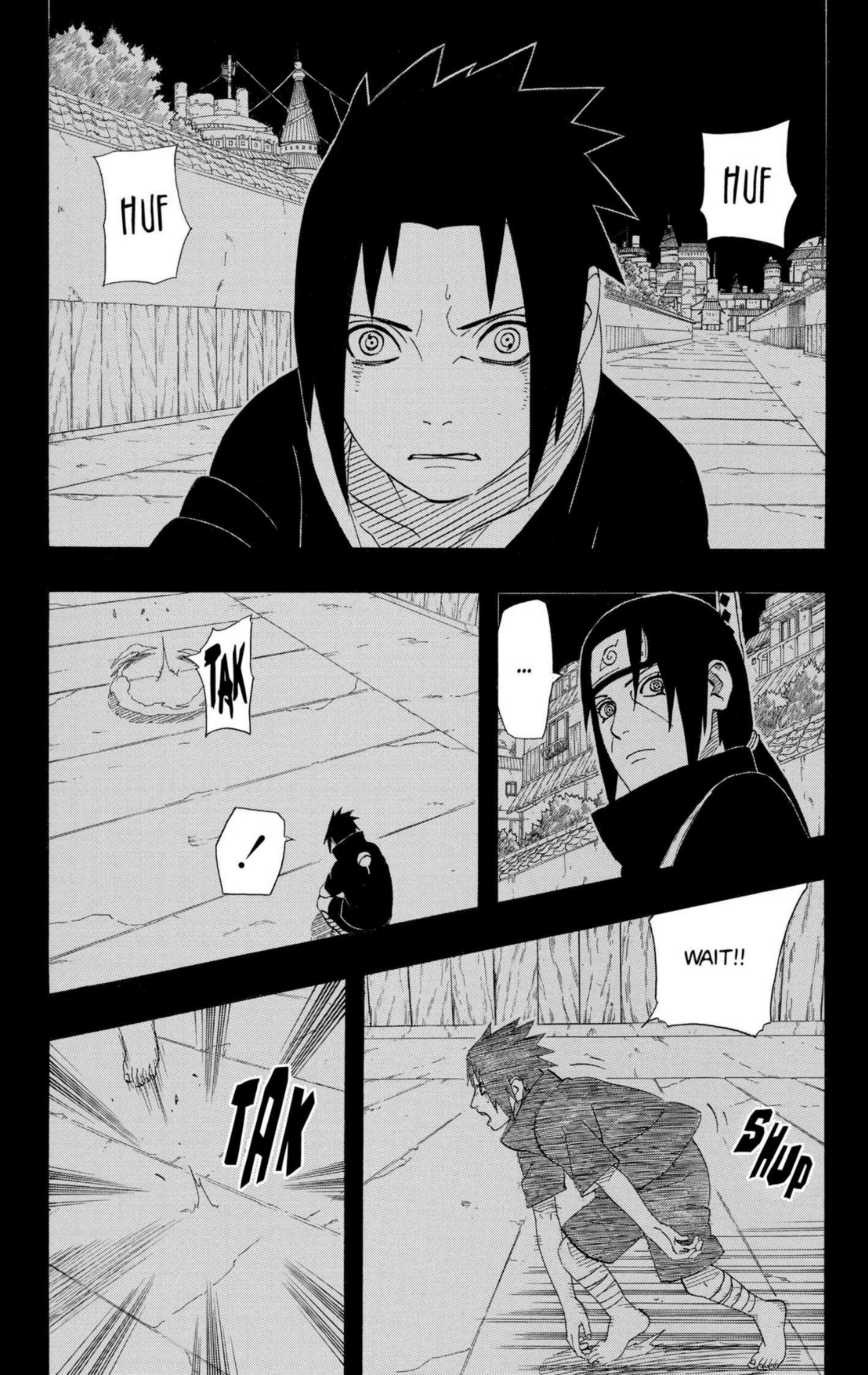
THU-THUMP



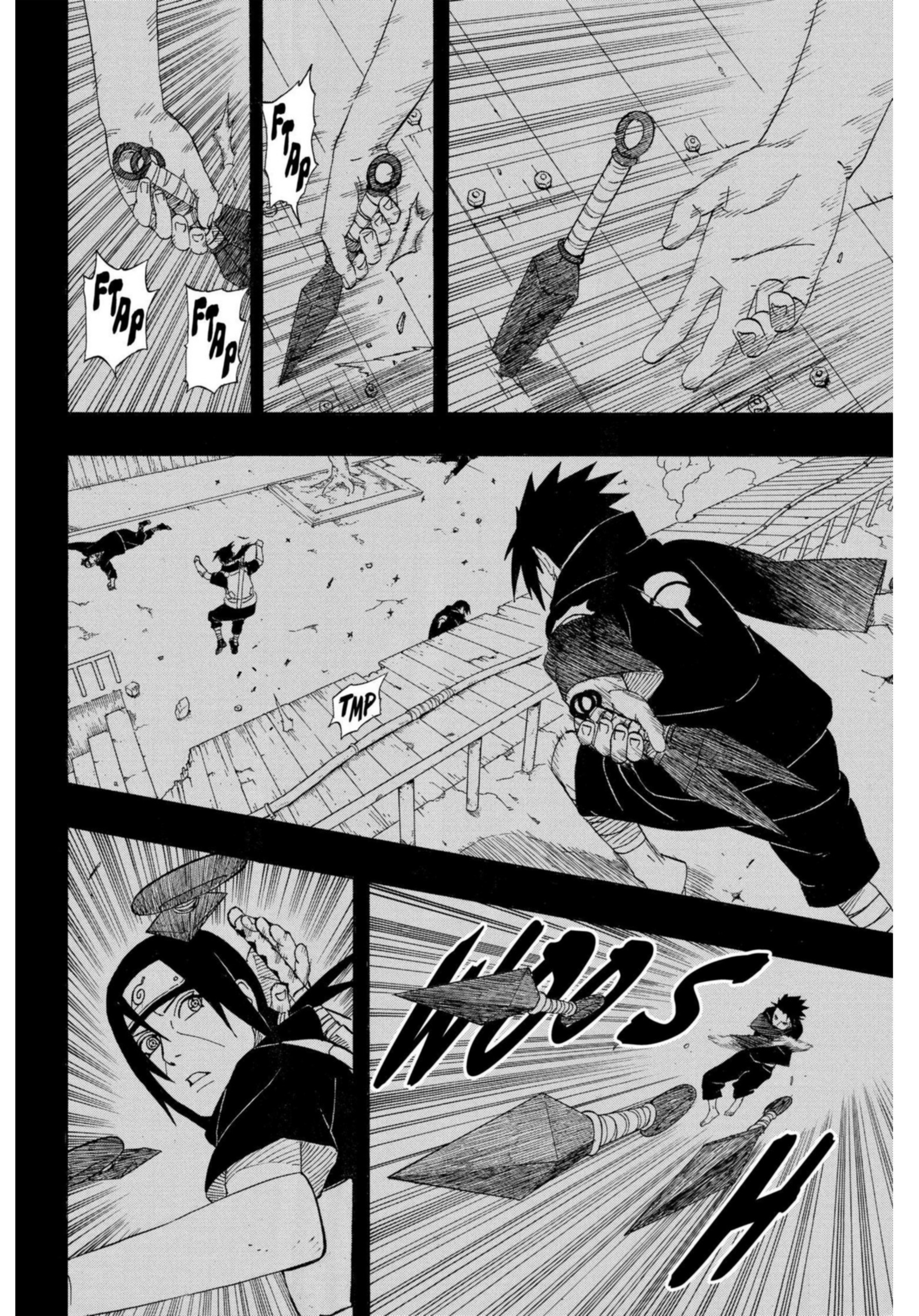
STAGGER



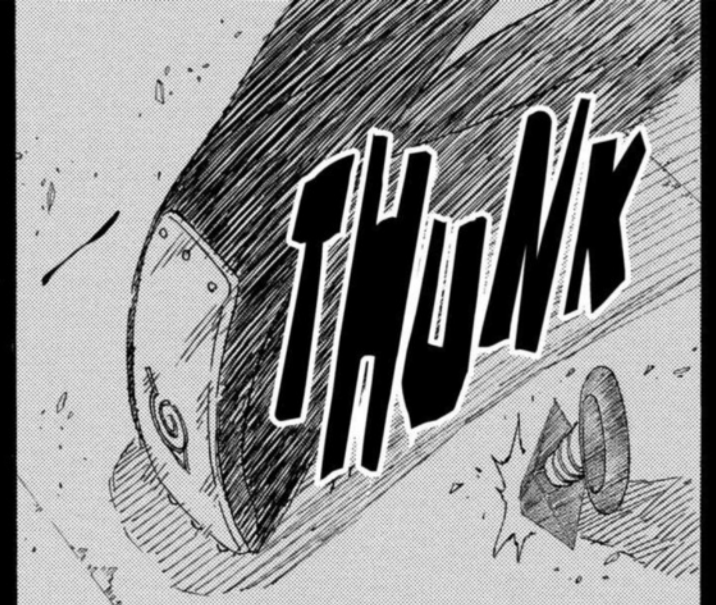
SHUUNK



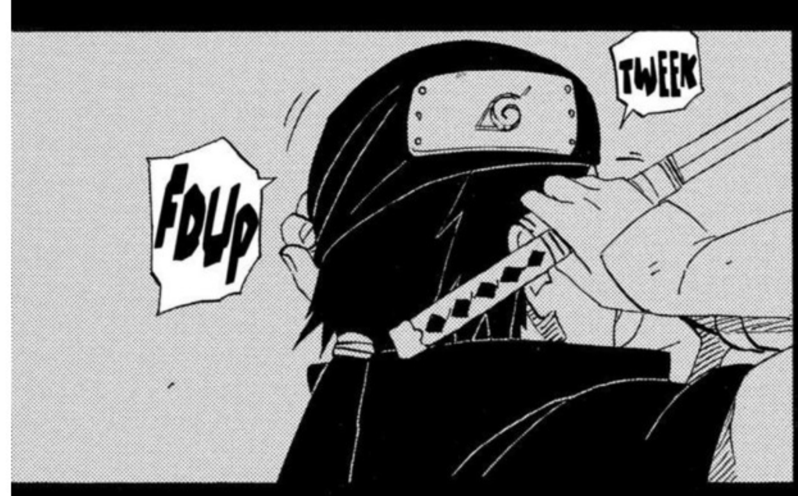
HUF
HUF
...
TAK
!
WAIT!!
SHUP
TAK


FTAP
FTAP
FTAP
TMP
WHOOSH


SWSH


THUNK


TMP
HUF
HUF

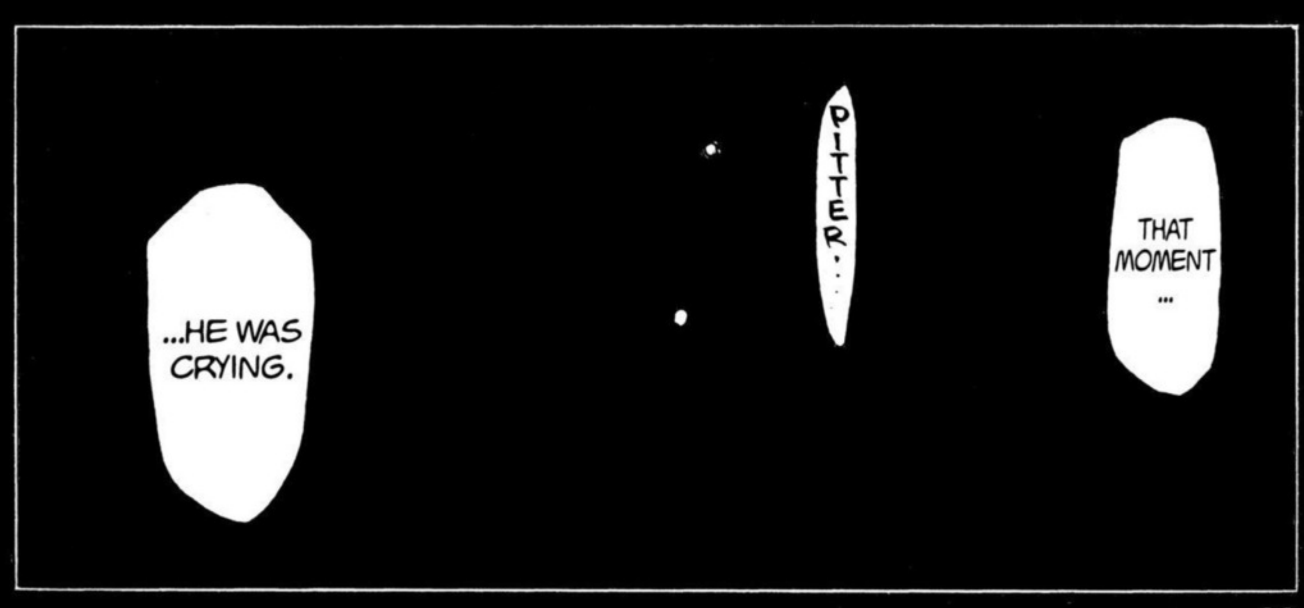

TWEEK
FDUP


HUF
GASP



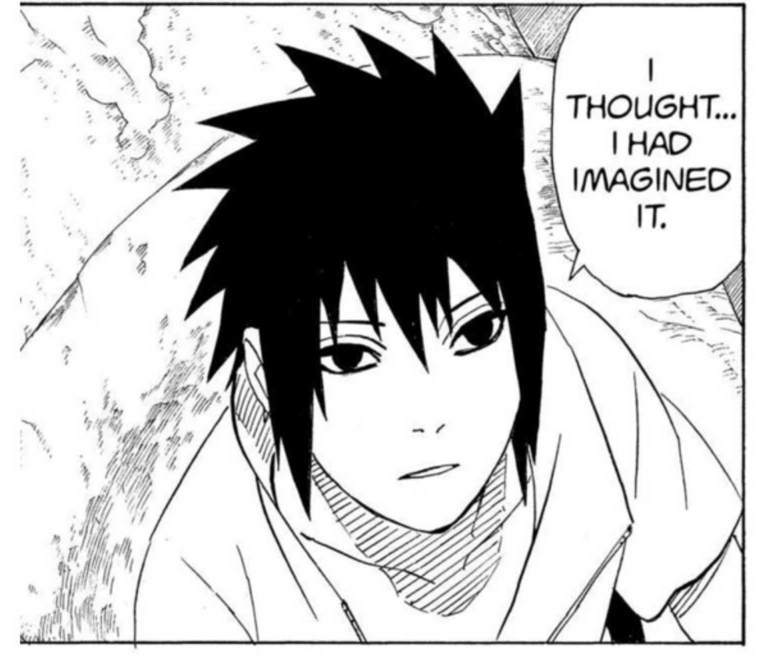

HUF


THUD


THAT MOMENT ...
PITTER...
...HE WAS CRYING.


READ
THIS
WAY




I THOUGHT... I HAD IMAGINED IT.

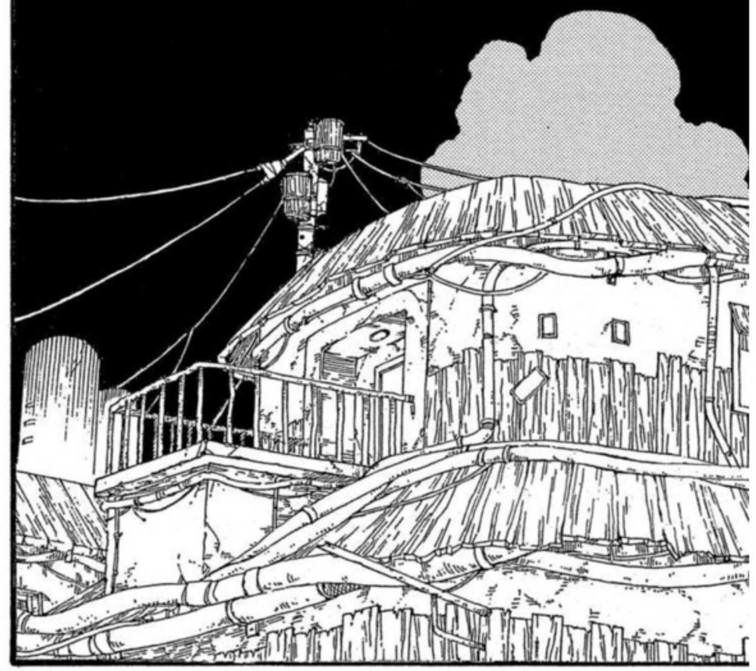



AND THEN I FORGOT ABOUT IT.




IT SEEMS WHAT YOU TOLD ME IS TRUE.



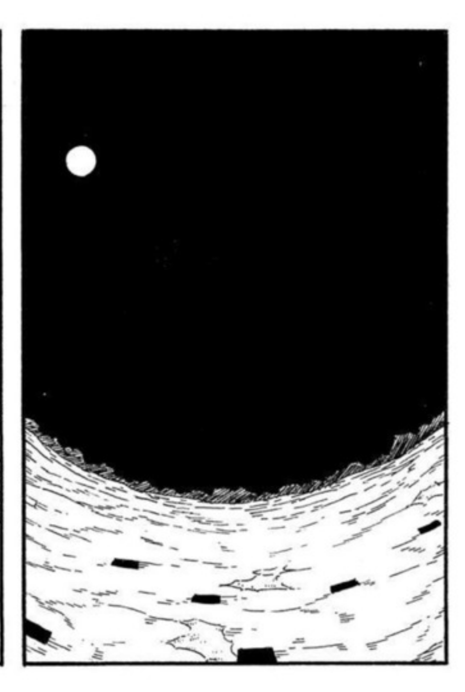



WHAT DID ITACHI MEAN BY THAT?
WHY DID HE...

SASUKE WON! UCHIHA ITACHI HAS DIED.
SASUKE'S DOWN TOO... SO WHAT NEXT?
I THINK HE'S IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE.


I WONDER WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW, SASUKE...
I HOPE YOU'RE OK...


READ THIS WAY

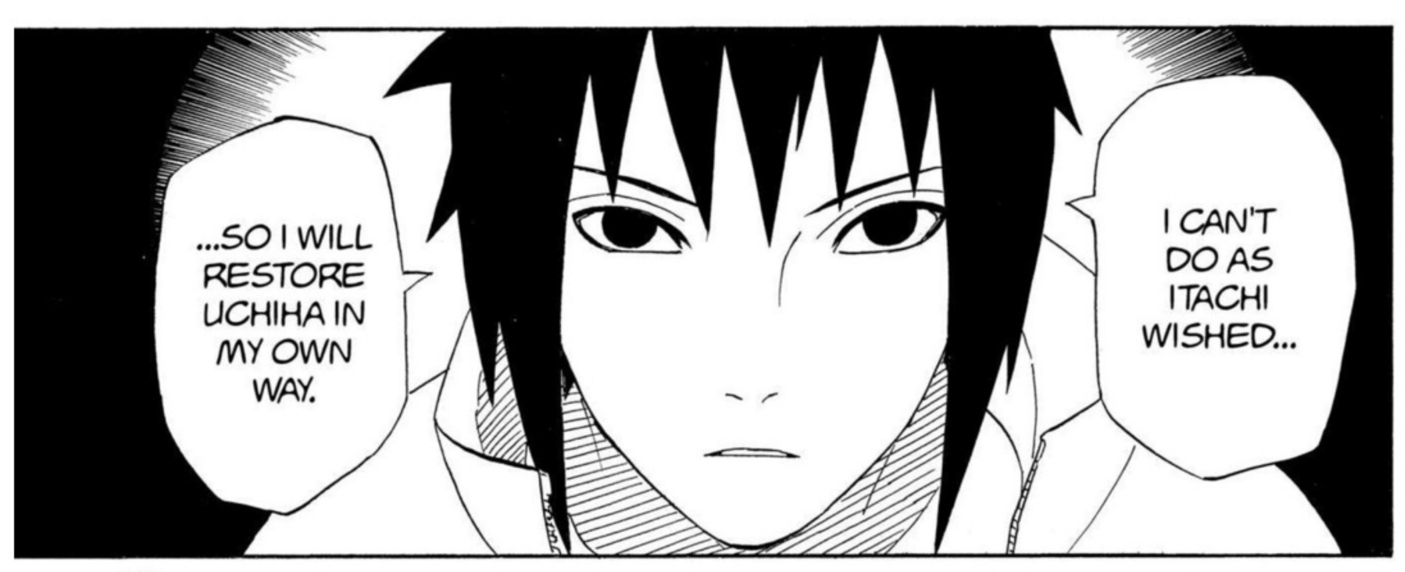


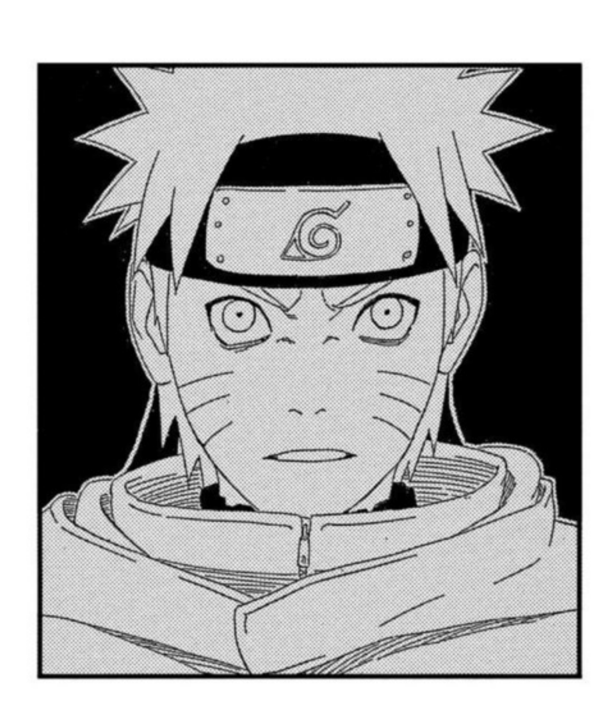

SO WHAT ABOUT ITACHI'S EYES...
YOU GOING TO TRANS-PLANT THEM?


NAH...


...


WHAT ITACHI WANTED...
AND WHAT I WILL BE DOING ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS.


I CAN'T DO AS ITACHI WISHED...
...SO I WILL RESTORE UCHIHA IN MY OWN WAY.





Number 404: Taka and Akatsuki





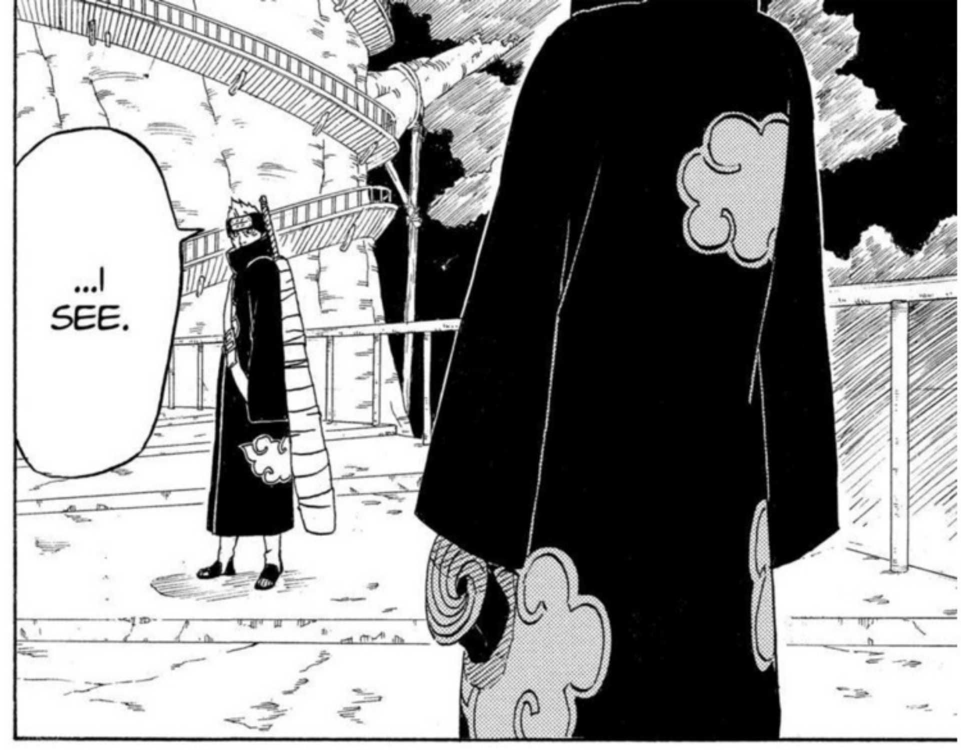




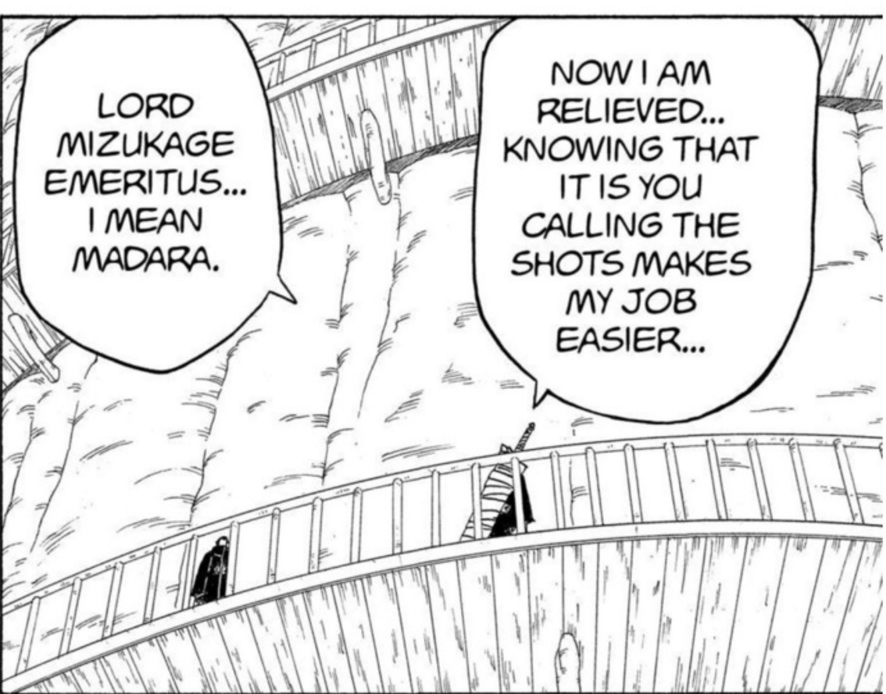


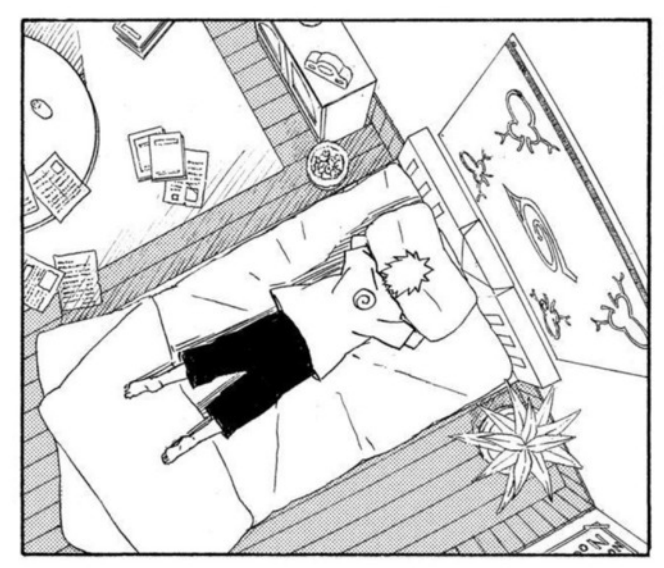


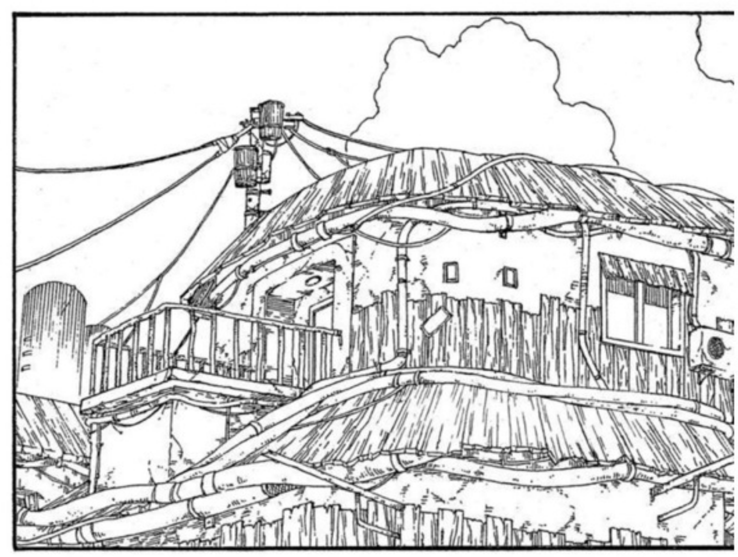

I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA YOU WERE TOBI, MILORD.


...I SEE.


I SHALL CONTINUE TO COUNT ON YOU, KISAME.


LORD MIZUKAGE EMERITUS... I MEAN MADARA.
NOW I AM RELIEVED... KNOWING THAT IT IS YOU CALLING THE SHOTS MAKES MY JOB EASIER...

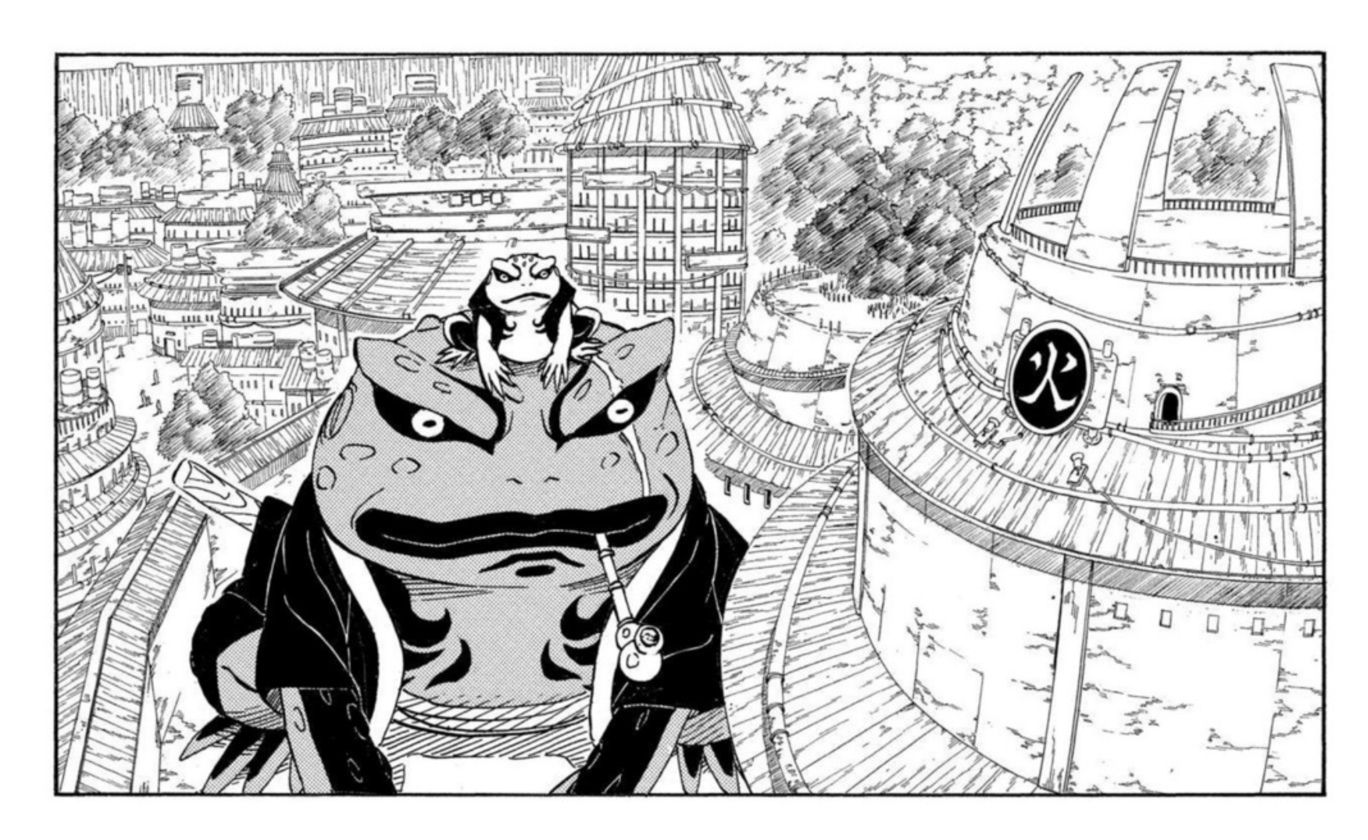





READ
THIS
WAY


NOK NOK
!


LADY FIFTH HAS SUMMONED YOU. LET'S GO.
OH...HEY, MASTER KAKASHI...




HUH?
CHIEF TOAD AND GAMAKICHI!


YO! NARUTO ...

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
SOME-THING HAPPEN?









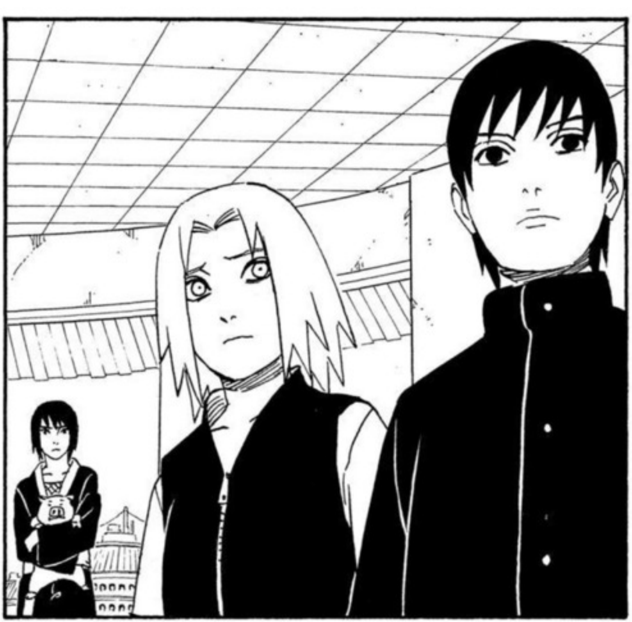



READ THIS WAY


!


KLUNK



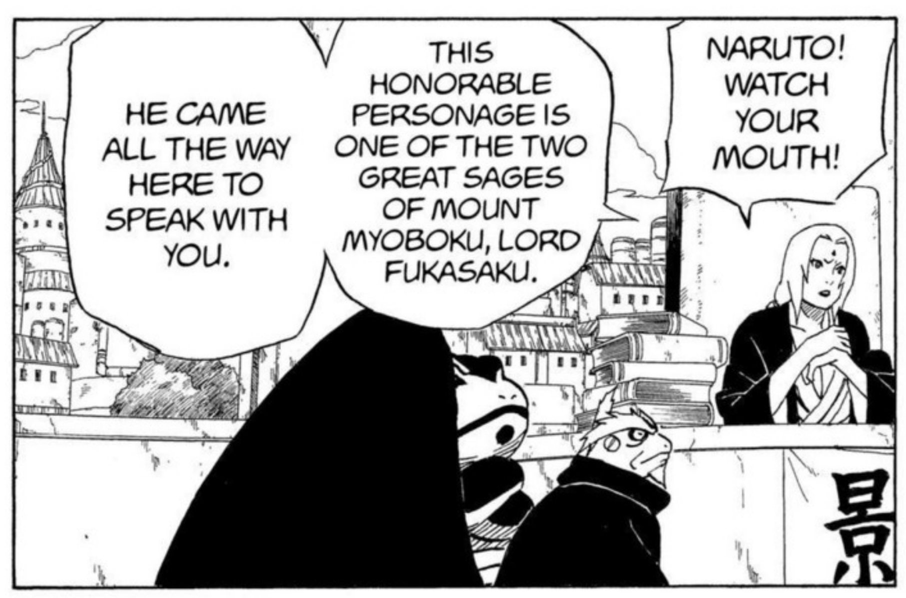



YES... THIS IS UZUMAKI NARUTO ...
...AND THE PROBABLE **CHILD OF PROPHECY**.


...


SO THIS CHILD IS JIRAIYA-BOY'S DISCIPLE?

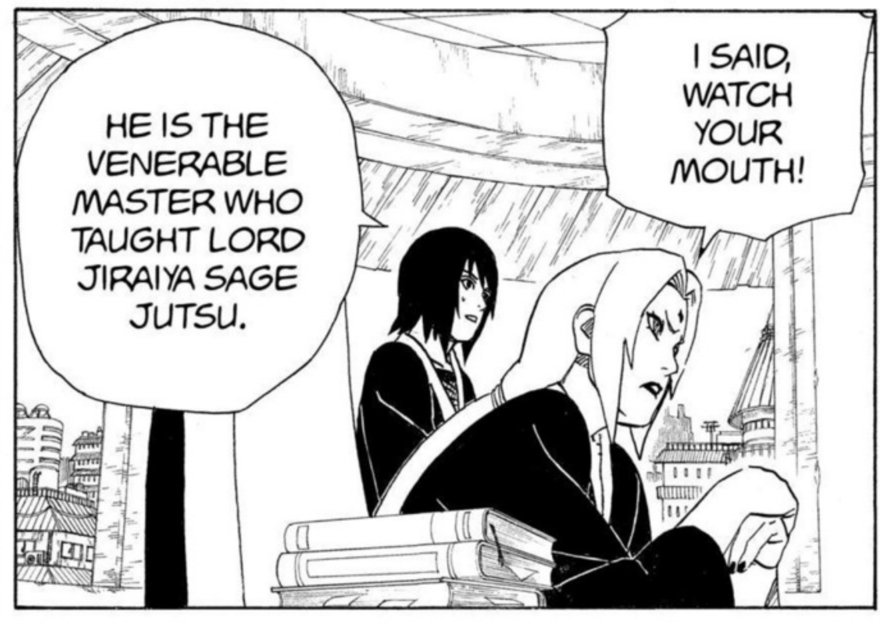

WHAT...?
A GEEZER FROG?

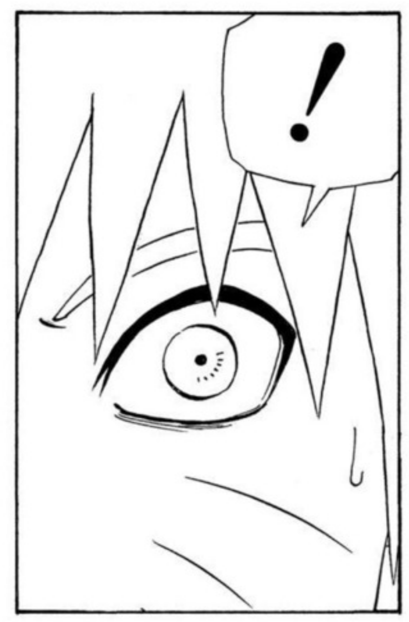

NARUTO! WATCH YOUR MOUTH!
THIS HONORABLE PERSONAGE IS ONE OF THE TWO GREAT SAGES OF MOUNT MYOBOKU, LORD FUKASAKU.
HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.


WELL, TO BE MORE ACCURATE, I AM A GREAT SAGE TOAD.
...BUT NEVER MIND THAT. SO YA REALLY ARE JIRAIYA-BOY'S DISCIPLE?


READ
THIS
WAY


JIRAIYA-BOY...?
BOY?!
HOW DARE YOU TREAT PERVY SAGE LIKE A KID!
WHO DOES THIS GEEZER FROG THINK HE IS?!!

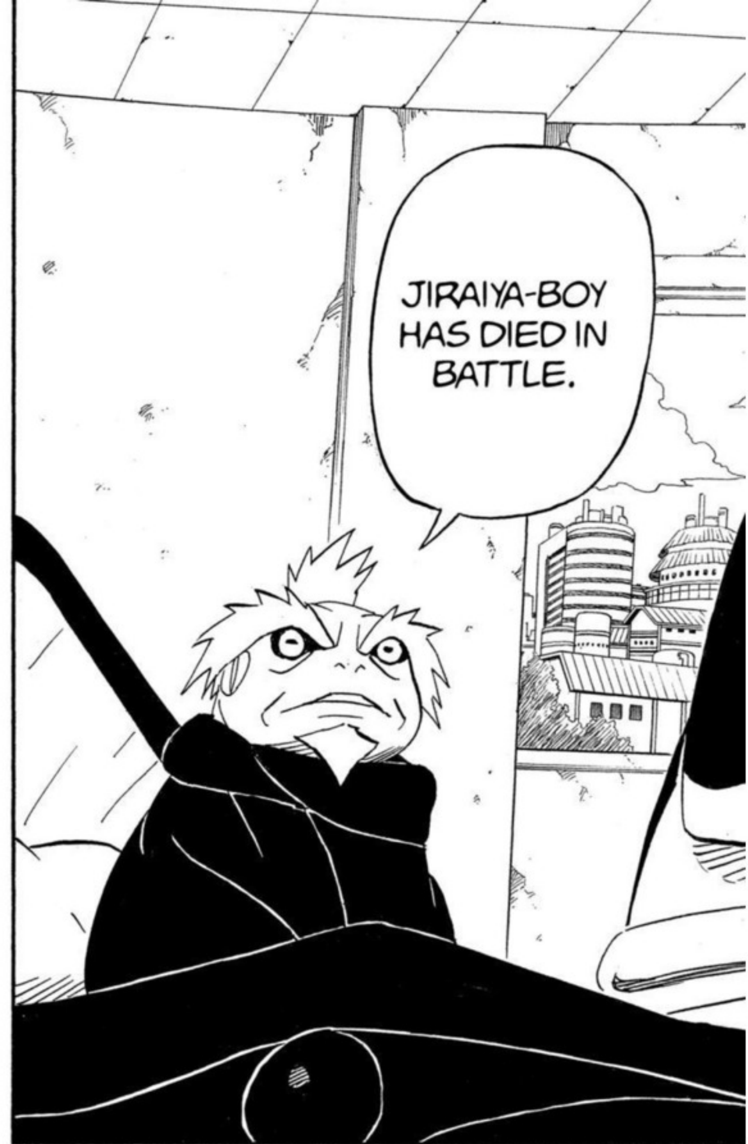

I SAID, WATCH YOUR MOUTH!
HE IS THE VENERABLE MASTER WHO TAUGHT LORD JIRAIYA SAGE JUTSU.

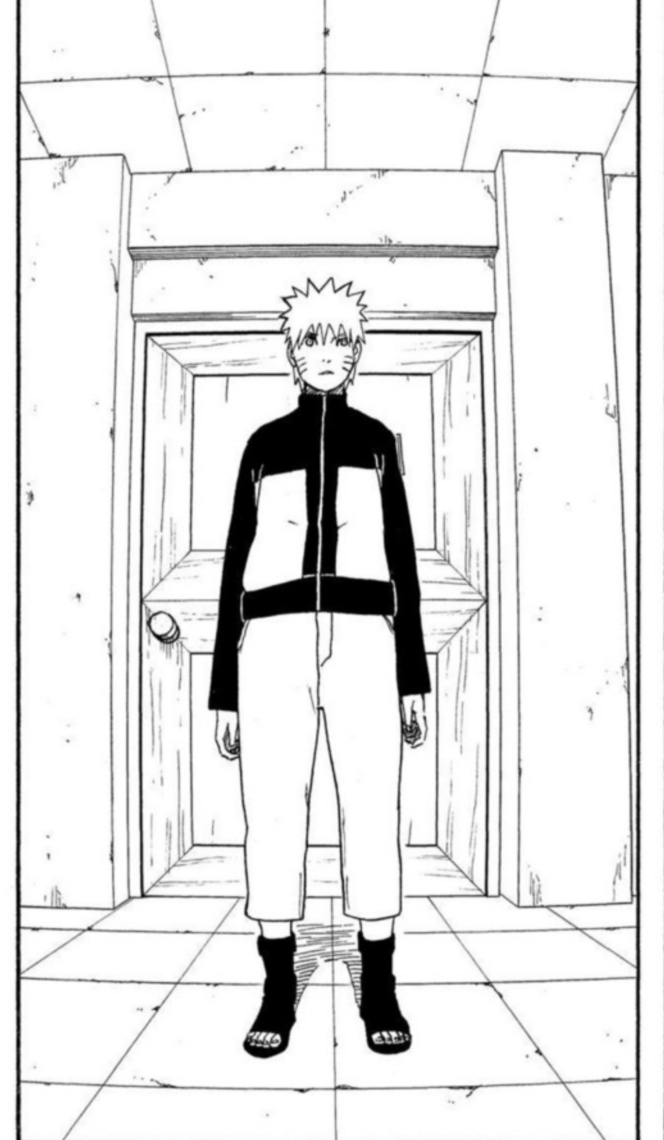

!


HO HO HO... PERVY SAGE, EH...
WHAT A FITTIN' NICKNAME FOR JIRAIYA-BOY.


SO WHAT DOES THAT GEEZER SAGE WANT WITH ME, ANYWAY?


I'M NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN ...
...BUT I SUPPOSE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS...

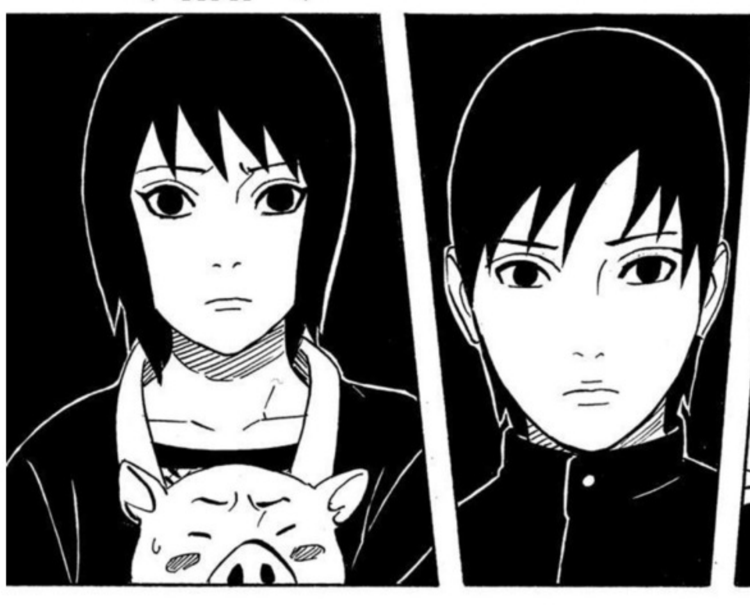


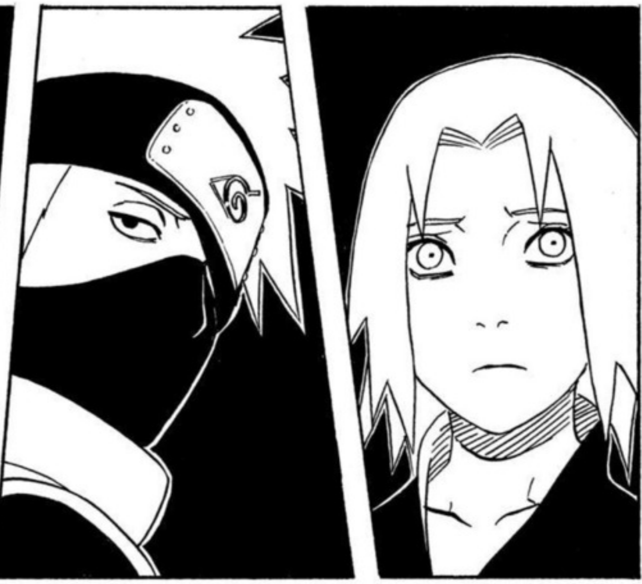


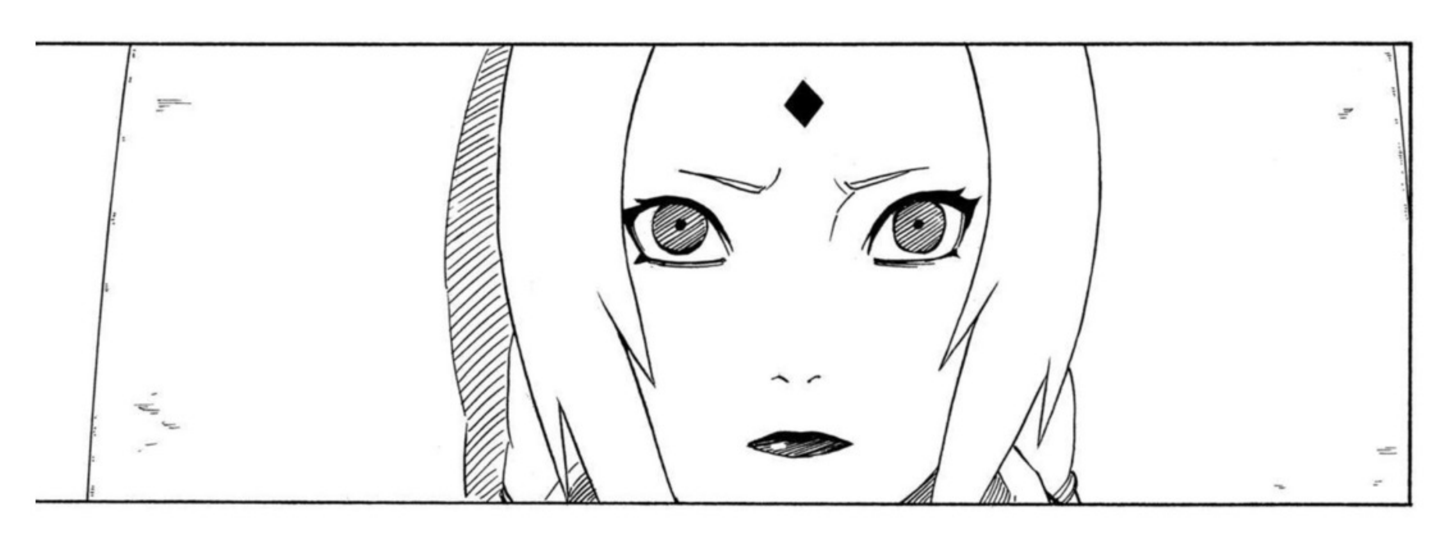
...

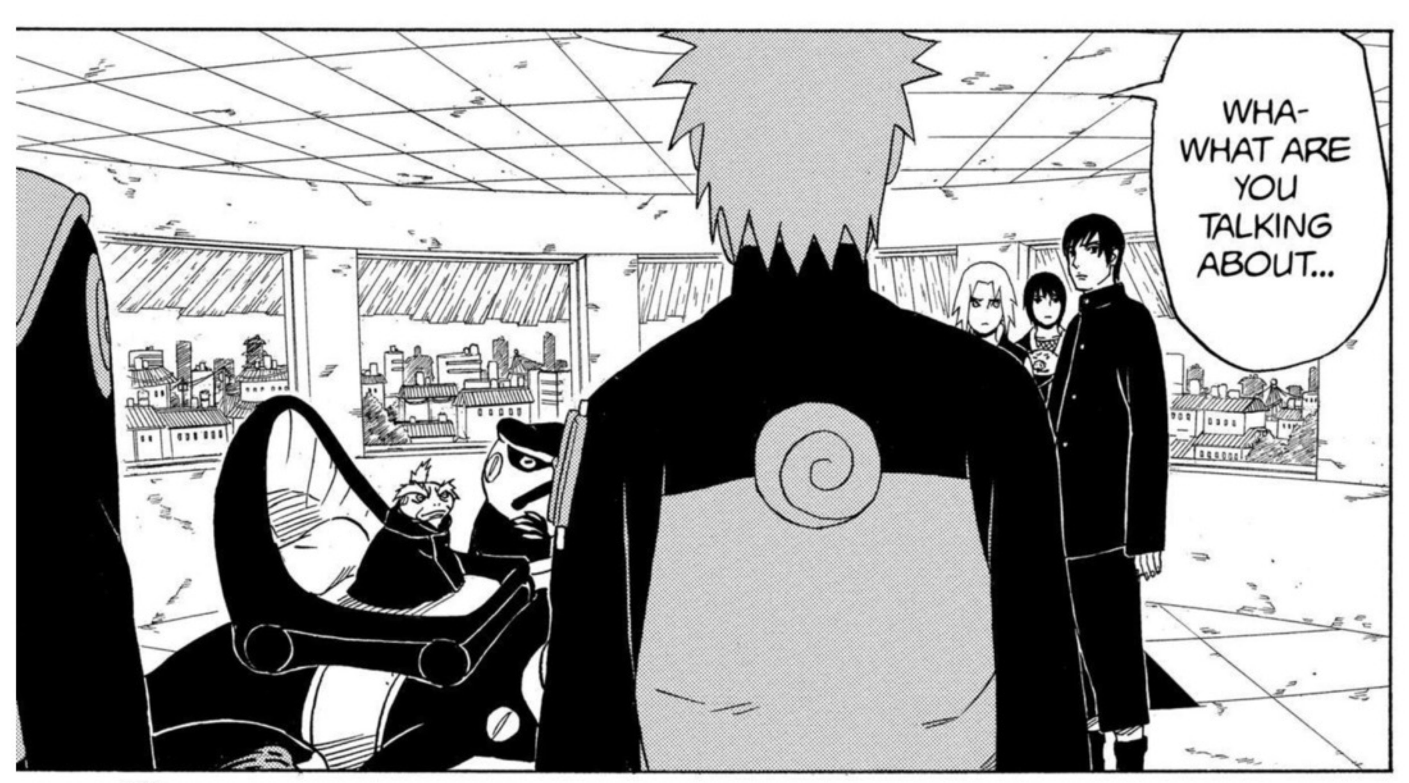
...HUH?


READ THIS WAY

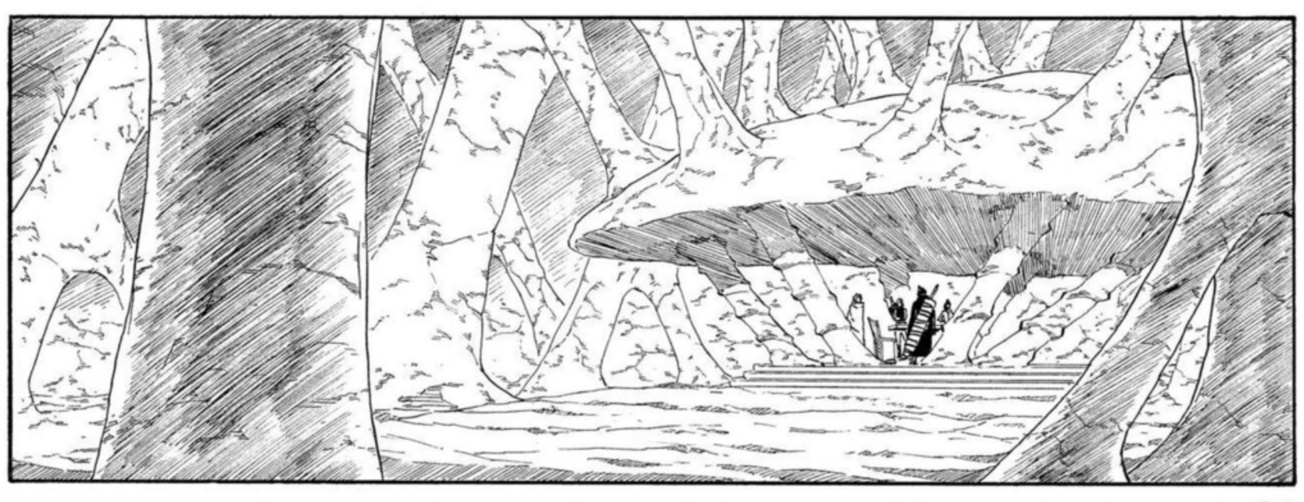




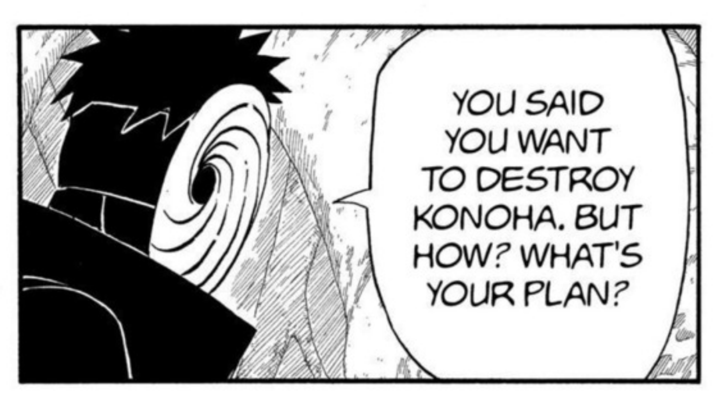



WHA-
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...

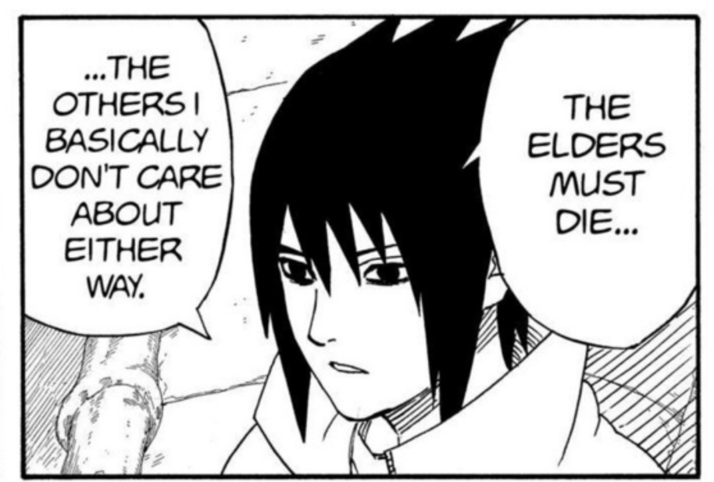

THUMP

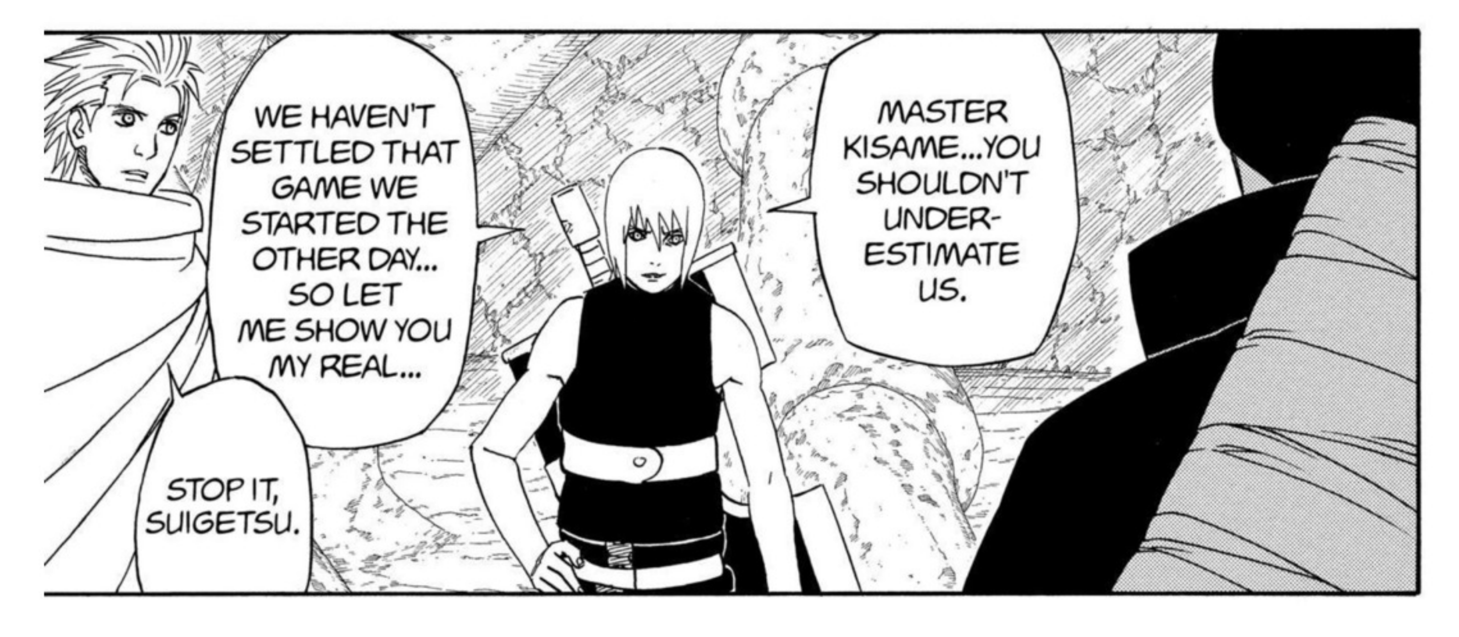


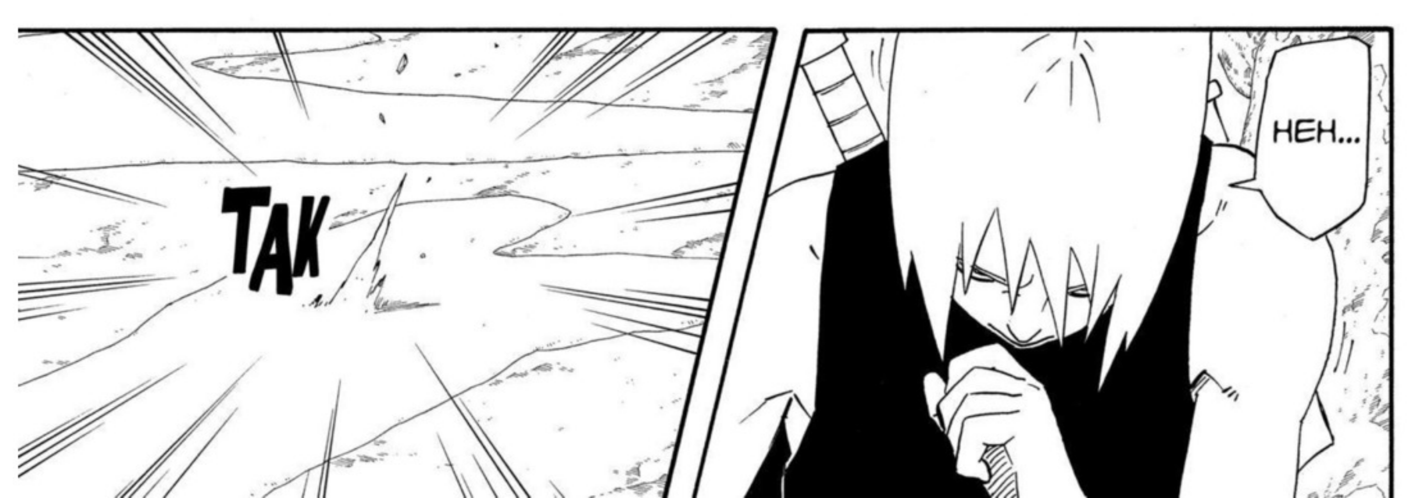

READ THIS WAY


YOU SAID YOU WANT TO DESTROY KONOHA. BUT HOW? WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?


IF YOU AIM HIGH, THE ONES BELOW WILL SHIELD THEM.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY...
...AND YOU FOUR TAKA AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH ALONE.


THE ELDERS MUST DIE...
...THE OTHERS I BASICALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT EITHER WAY.


MASTER KISAME...YOU SHOULDN'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US.
WE HAVEN'T SETTLED THAT GAME WE STARTED THE OTHER DAY... SO LET ME SHOW YOU MY REAL...
STOP IT, SUIGETSU.


HEH...
TAK

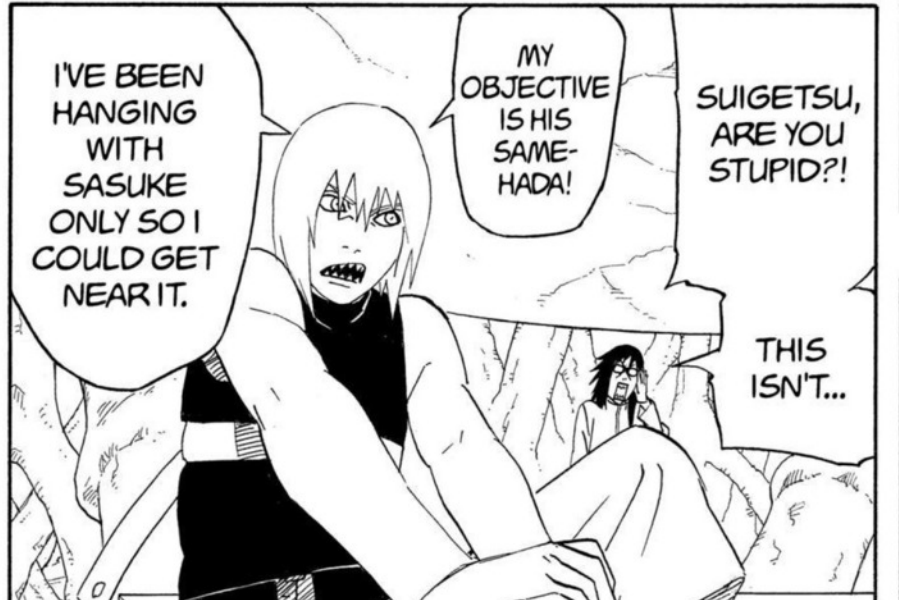
ZHO
OM

TH
OK

SASUKE, YOU LACK CONTROL.








READ THIS WAY


SASUKE... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?


FINE...
DO AS YOU WILL, SUIGETSU.
BUT KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST HIM YET.


HO HO... YET, EH...
VWEET


HEH... WHAT A DIS, SASUKE.
WELL, NO WORRIES. I'LL GET YOU SOME YUMMY SHARK'S FIN SOON ENOUGH.


THEN AGAIN, THE AKATSUKI'S LOW IN MAN-POWER RIGHT NOW TOO.
KLAK

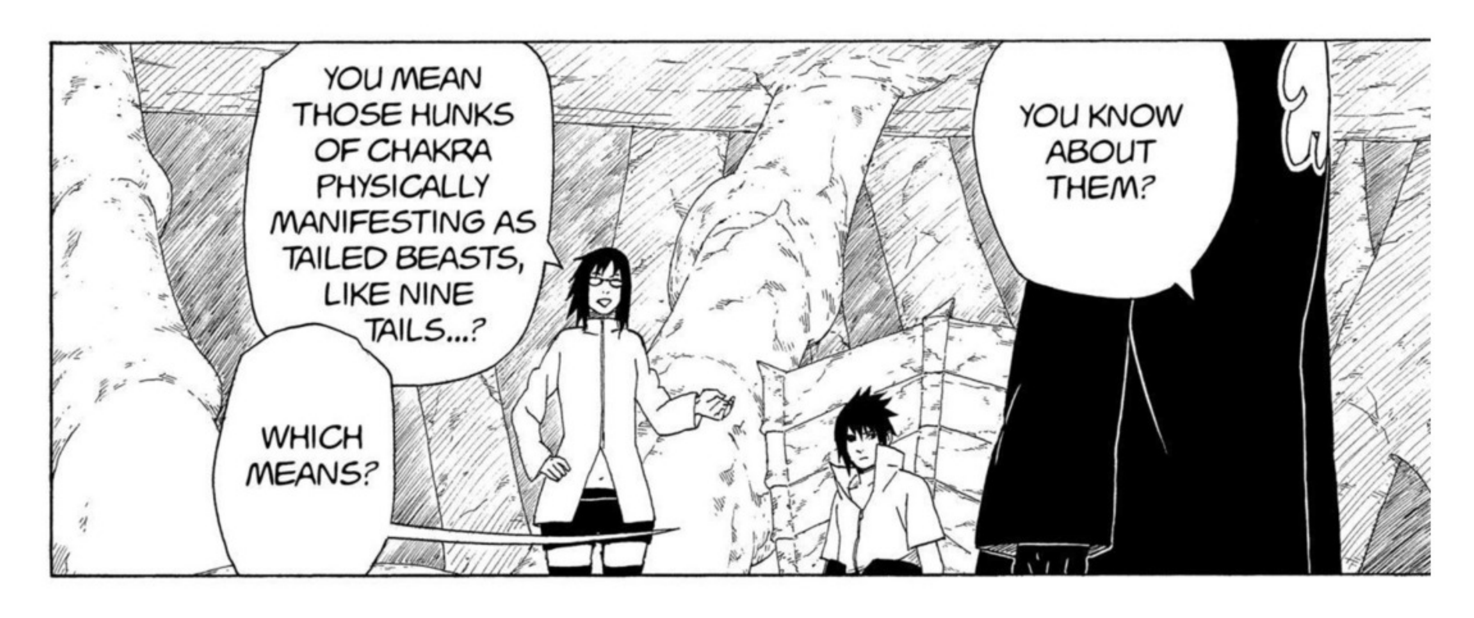

THE POT SHOULDN'T BE CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK, YOU KNOW.


WE SHARE COMMON INTERESTS.
SO... TAKA SHALL COORDINATE AND MOVE WITH AKATSUKI.

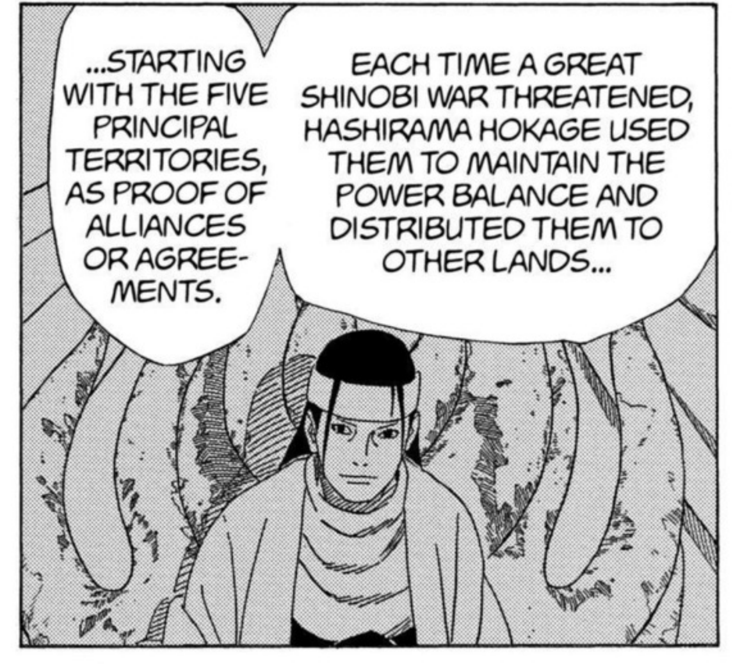

AND WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?


WE'LL SHARE THE BIJU WITH YOU.

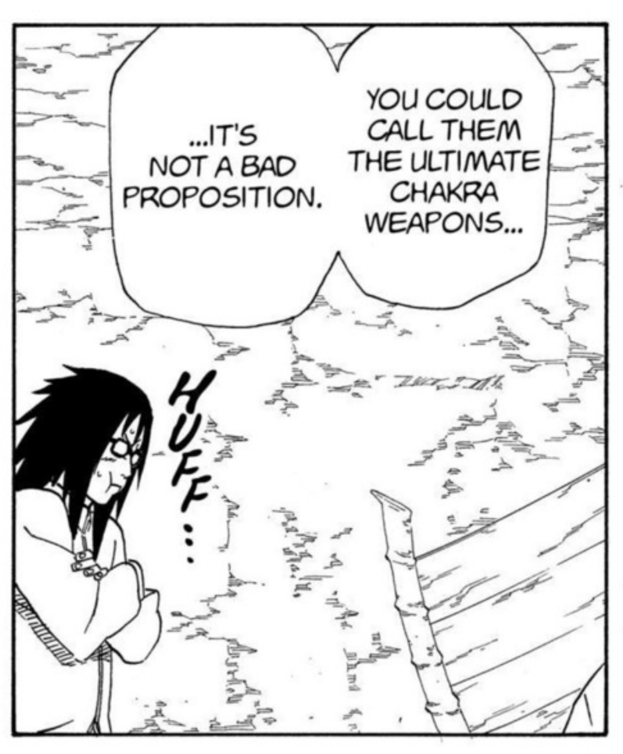

BIJU?


YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?
YOU MEAN THOSE HUNKS OF CHAKRA PHYSICALLY MANIFESTING AS TAILED BEASTS, LIKE NINE TAILS...?
WHICH MEANS?


THEY'RE CHAKRA MONSTERS.
LONG AGO, THE FIRST HOKAGE COLLECTED A FEW OF THEM AND KEPT THEM UNDER HIS CONTROL.


EACH TIME A GREAT SHINOBI WAR THREATENED, HASHIRAMA HOKAGE USED THEM TO MAINTAIN THE POWER BALANCE AND DISTRIBUTED THEM TO OTHER LANDS...
...STARTING WITH THE FIVE PRINCIPAL TERRITORIES, AS PROOF OF ALLIANCES OR AGREE-MENTS.


READ THIS WAY


YOU COULD CALL THEM THE ULTIMATE CHAKRA WEAPONS...
...IT'S NOT A BAD PROPOSITION.
HUFF...


THAT'S QUITE GENER-OUS.
HOWEVER, IF YOU BETRAY THE AKATSUKI, YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE.

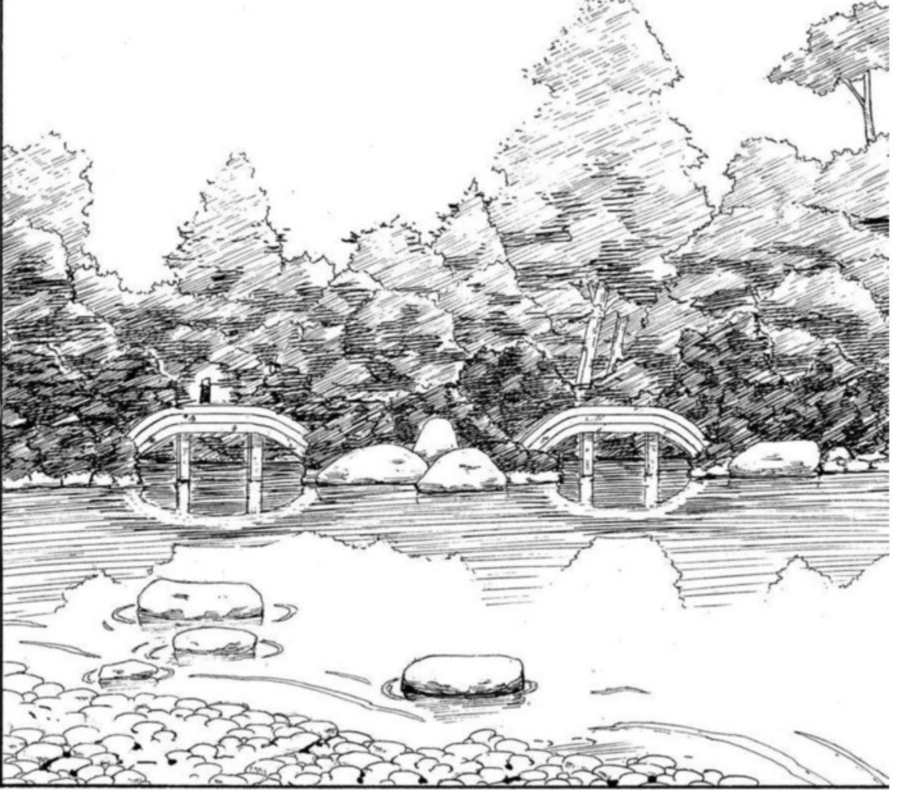

HEH...


...THERE ARE NINE BIJU IN TOTAL.
SO FAR WE AKATSUKI HAVE COLLECTED SEVEN OF THEM...
...JUST TWO REMAIN.

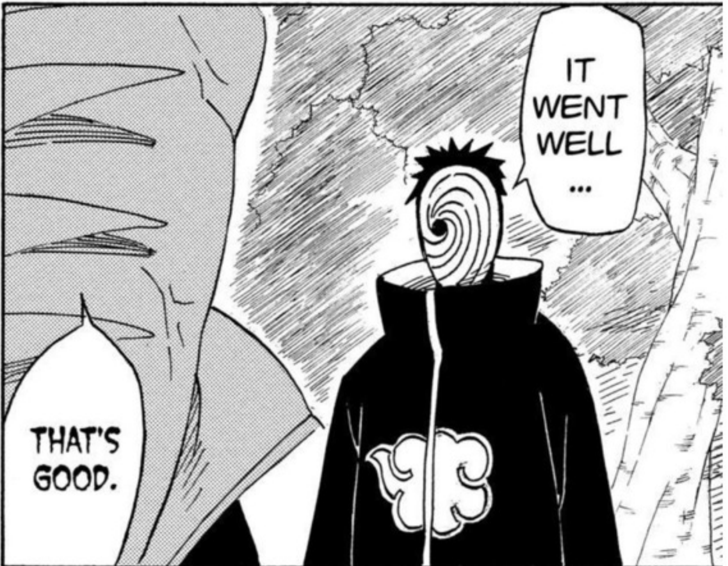

WE'LL SPLIT THEM BETWEEN US...
...THAT'LL BE OUR IMMEDIATE GOAL.


...YOU DON'T HAVE NINE TAILS YET, HUH.


THE AKATSUKI SHALL HUNT NARUTO.
TAKA, YOU TAKE THE OTHER.




WELL?

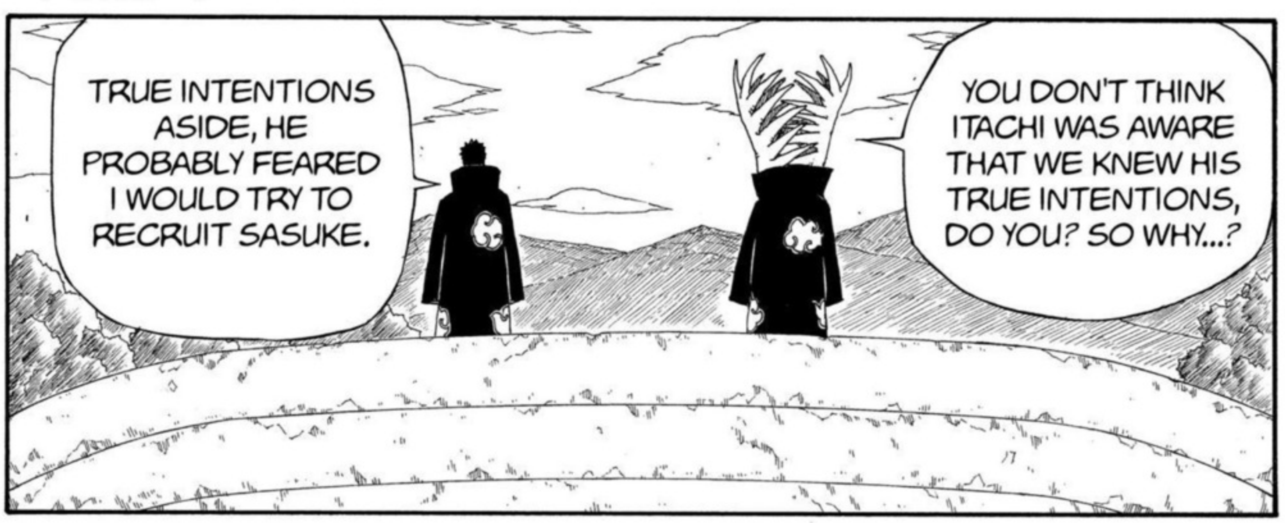

IT WENT WELL ...
THAT'S GOOD.


ITACHI'S DEAD... SO OUR EYESORE'S FINALLY GONE.
AND NOW WE NEED NO LONGER KEEP OUR PACT TO STAY AWAY FROM KONOHA.


SUCH A LONG WAIT...
ALL SO WE COULD PROCEED ACCORDING TO PLAN... IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT.


BUT ITACHI HAD PLACED INSURANCE IN SASUKE.
THE AMATER-ASU.

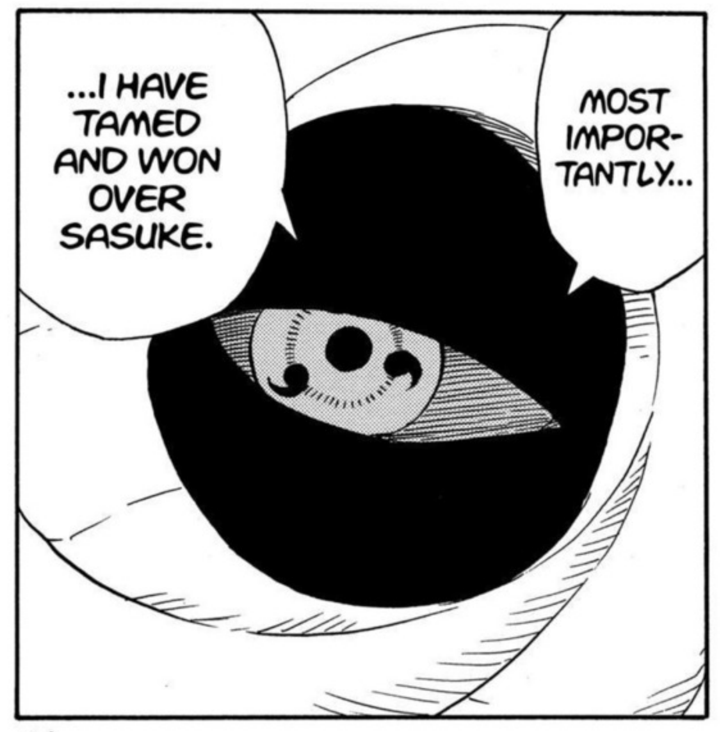

READ THIS WAY


YOU DON'T THINK ITACHI WAS AWARE THAT WE KNEW HIS TRUE INTENTIONS, DO YOU? SO WHY...?
TRUE INTENTIONS ASIDE, HE PROBABLY FEARED I WOULD TRY TO RECRUIT SASUKE.


STILL... LOSING SO MANY MEMBERS JUST TO GET THIS FAR...

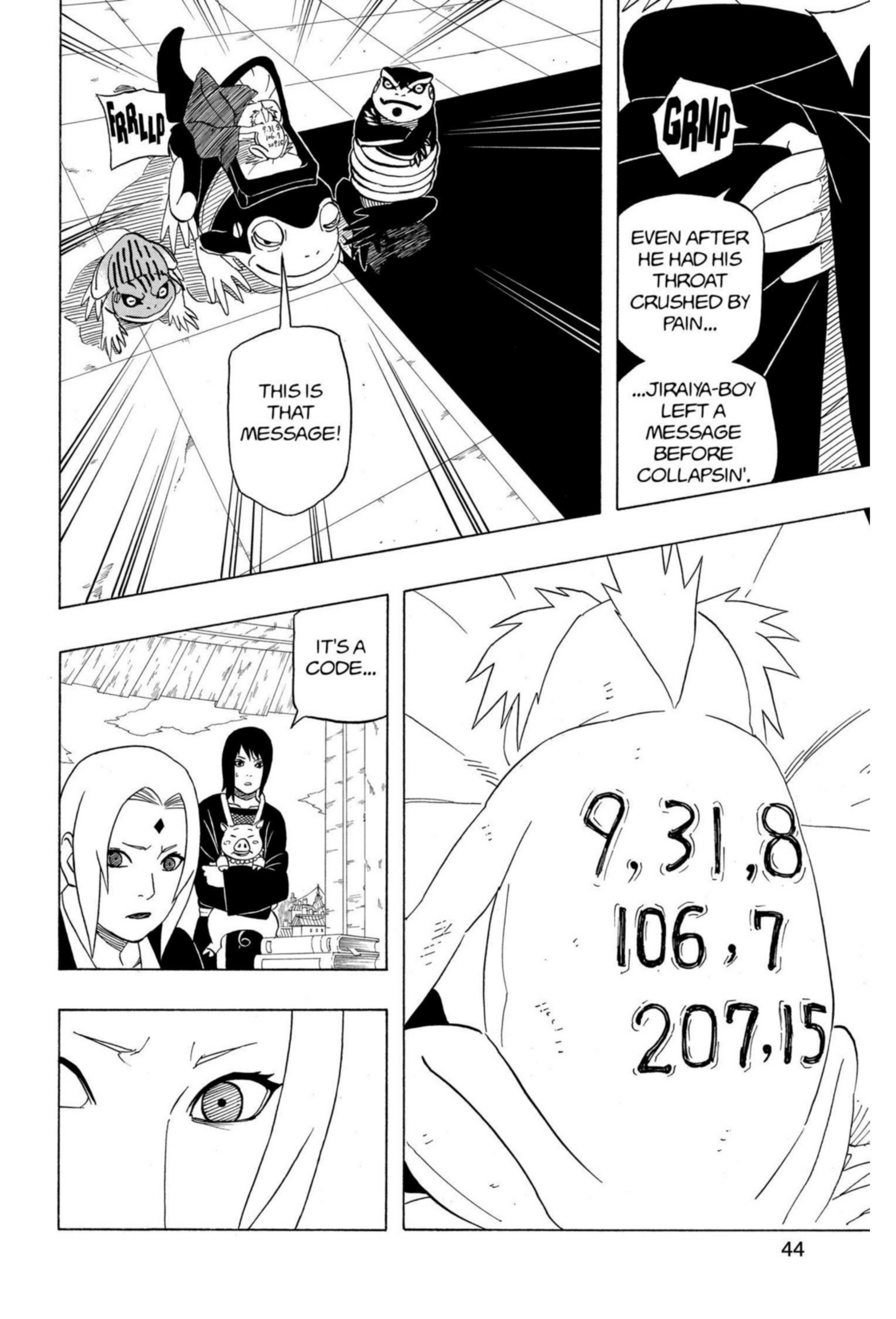

WELL, WE RAN INTO PROBLEMS HERE AND THERE...
...BUT THEY ALL SERVED THE AKATSUKI BY THEIR OWN WILL.
DEIDARA, SASORI, HIDAN, KAKUZU...
...WITHOUT THEM, WE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN AS FAR AS WE HAVE.


AND THANKS TO THEM, EVERYTHING IS FOLLOWING MY PLAN.


MOST IMPOR-TANTLY...
...I HAVE TAMED AND WON OVER SASUKE.


NARUTO

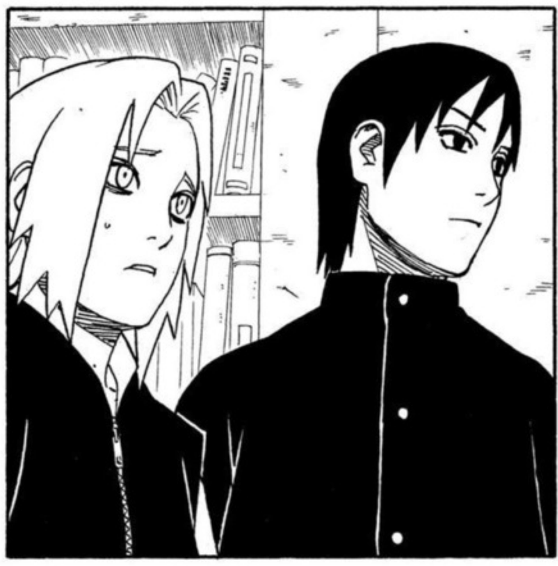

Number 405: Inheritance


GRNP
EVEN AFTER HE HAD HIS THROAT CRUSHED BY PAIN...
...JIRAIYA-BOY LEFT A MESSAGE BEFORE COLLAPSIN'.
FRRLLP
THIS IS THAT MESSAGE!
9,31,8
106,7
207,15
IT'S A CODE...


READ THIS WAY


I'M SURE IT WERE SO PAIN WOULDN'T CATCH ON.
...AND THAT'S IT FOR JIRAIYA-BOY'S EFFORTS.
FRRLLP

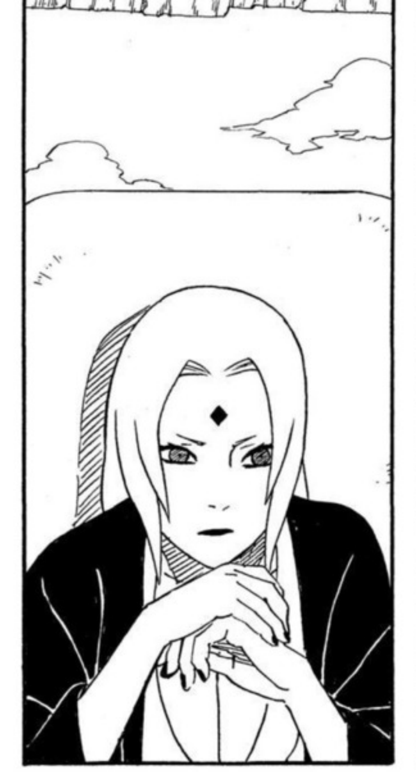

...
YOU LET HIM GO... GRANNY ...?



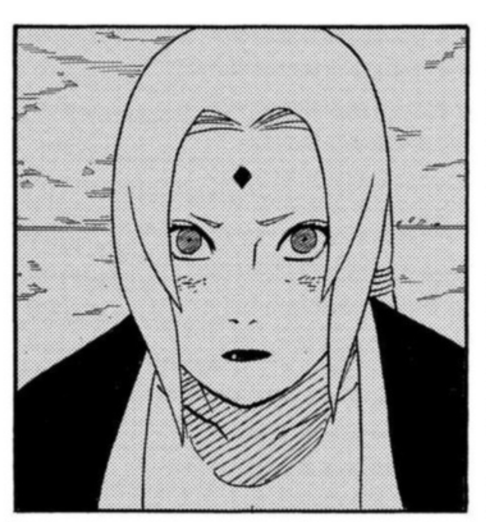
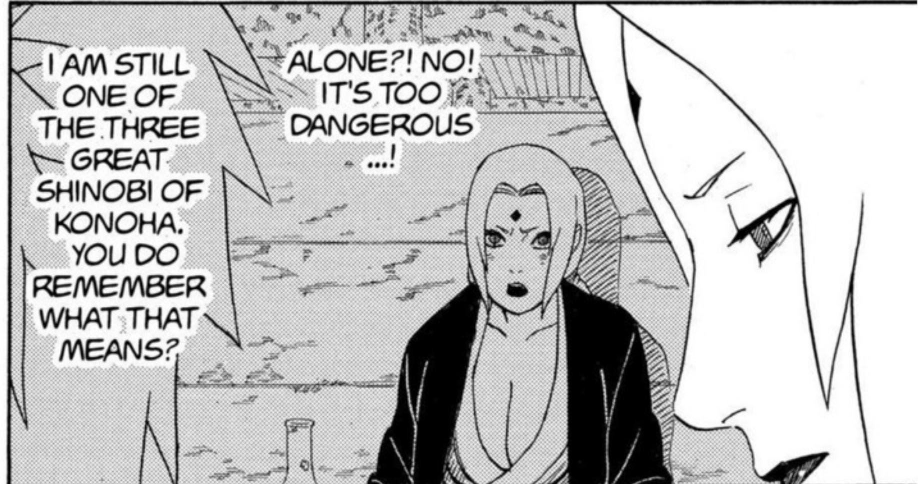

...
THAT'S RIGHT.

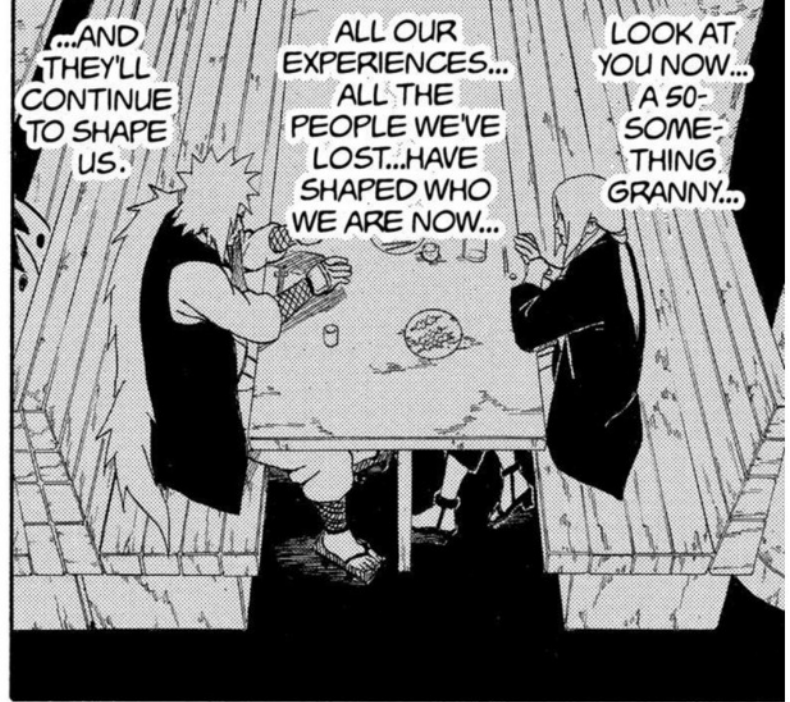

WHY'D YOU LET HIM TAKE THAT RISK?!!


YOU KNOW PERVY SAGE BETTER THAN ANYONE!
HOW COULD YOU SEND HIM TO SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE, ALONE?!
STOP IT, NARUTO.

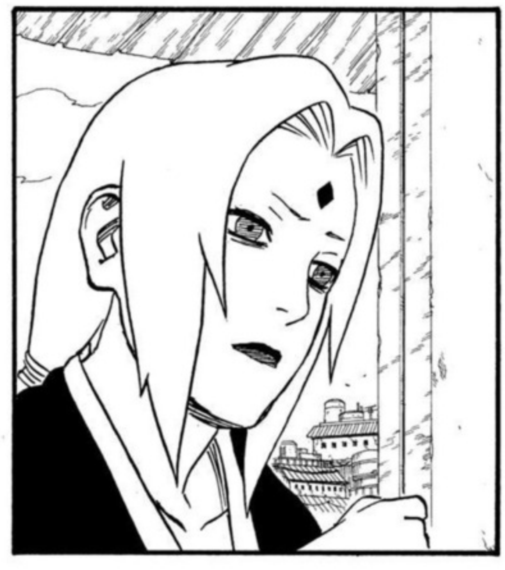


YWEEN
...

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE OUGHT TO KNOW LADY FIFTH'S FEELINGS.


ALONE?! NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS ...!
I AM STILL ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA. YOU DO REMEMBER WHAT THAT MEANS?

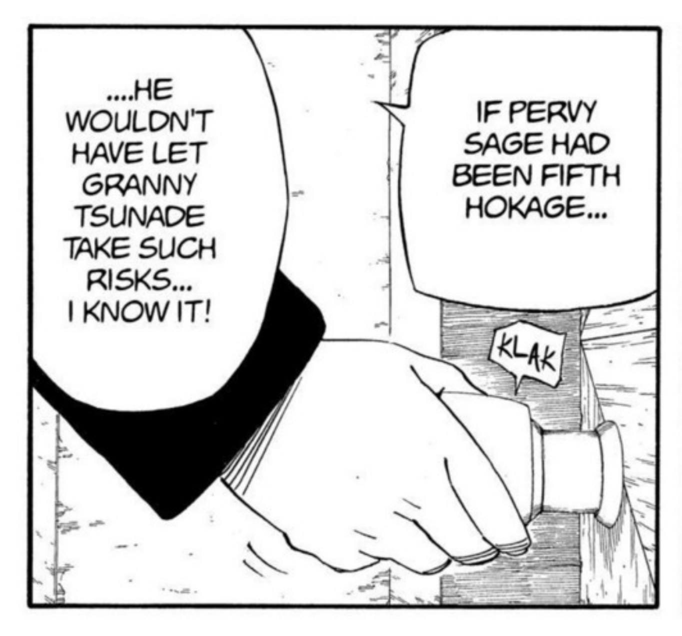
JUST GONNA HAVE TO KEEP OUR EMOTIONS IN CHECK, I GUESS...
OUR JOB IS TO SET EXAMPLES FOR AND AID THE NEXT GENERATION.
油
FOR THAT CAUSE, I'LL GLADLY RISK MY LIFE.

LOOK AT YOU NOW... A 50-SOMETHING GRANNY...
ALL OUR EXPERIENCES... ALL THE PEOPLE WE'VE LOST...HAVE SHAPED WHO WE ARE NOW...
...AND THEY'LL CONTINUE TO SHAPE US.

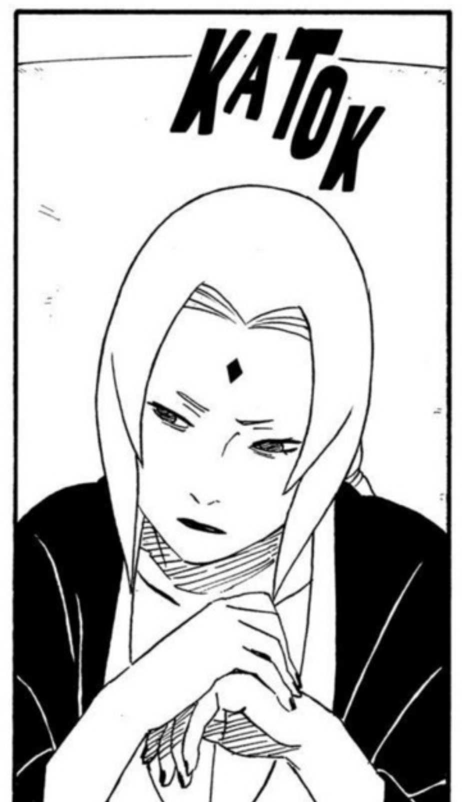

READ
THIS
WAY

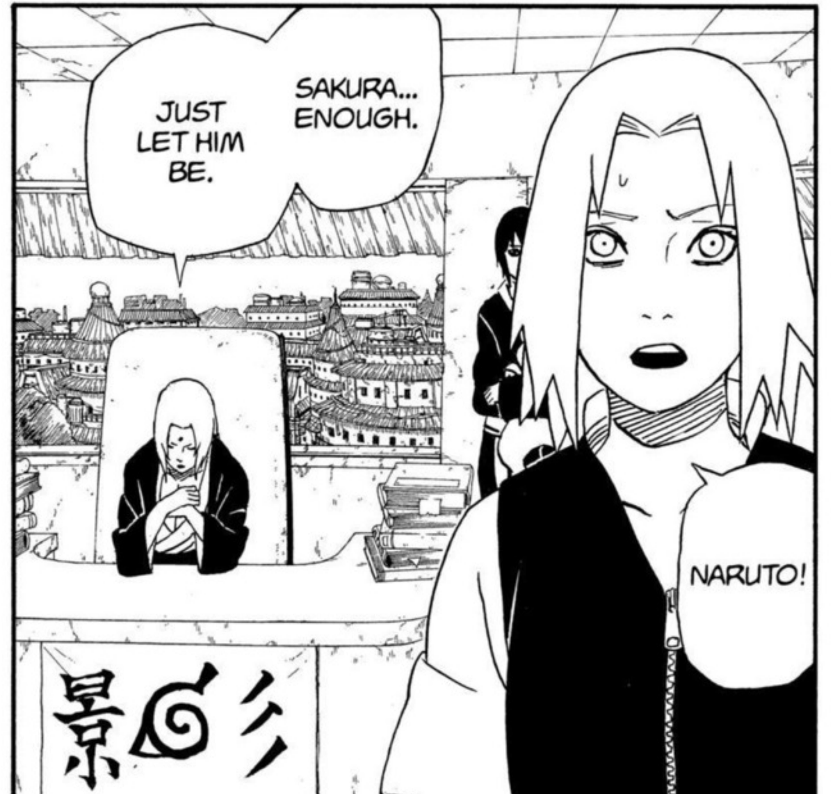



...GAH!
!
FRRRLL


NARUTO! WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!


IF PERVY SAGE HAD BEEN FIFTH HOKAGE...
...HE WOULDN'T HAVE LET GRANNY TSUNADE TAKE SUCH RISKS... I KNOW IT!
KLAK


KATOK

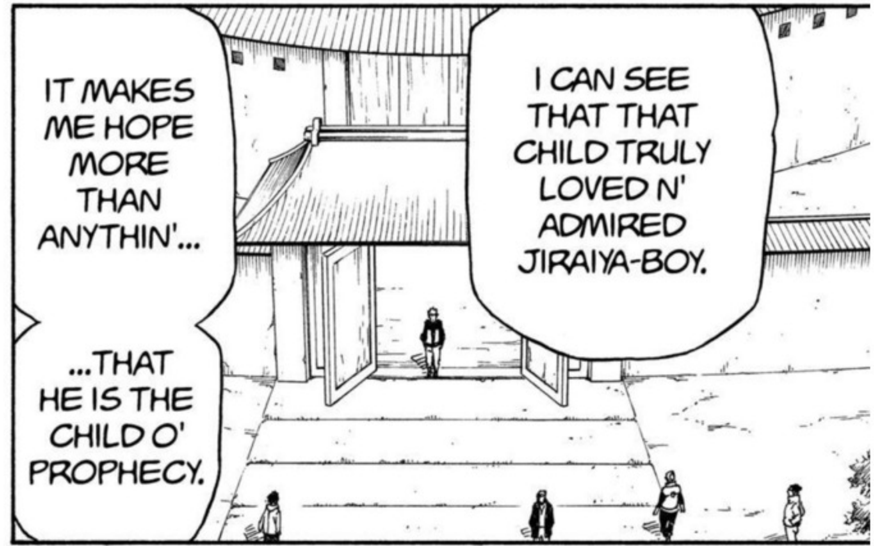

SAKURA... ENOUGH.
JUST LET HIM BE.
NARUTO!


BWHAM
BUT...


MY APOLOGIES, LORD FUKASAKU.
I'LL ARRANGE FOR NARUTO TO...


NO, NO... THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

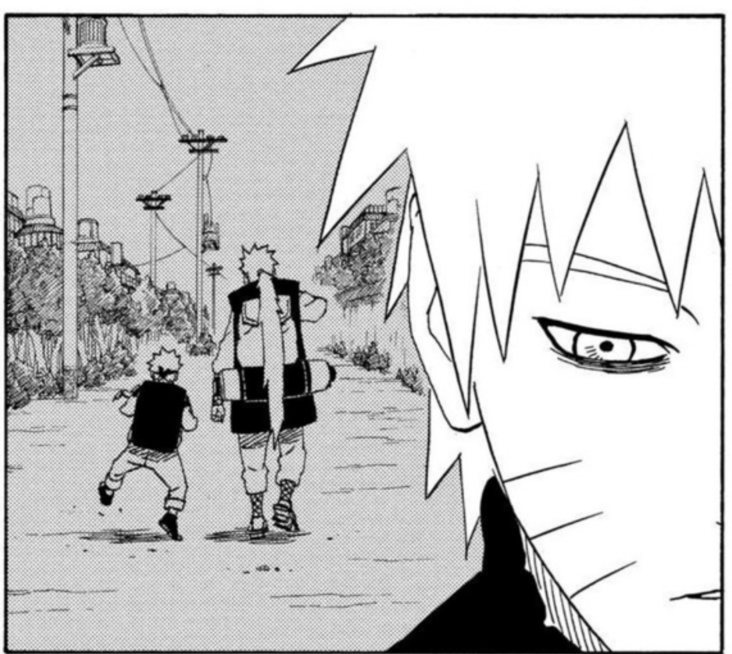

BUT BACK TO THAT CHILD O' PROPHECY VISION I WAS TALKIN' 'BOUT EARLIER...

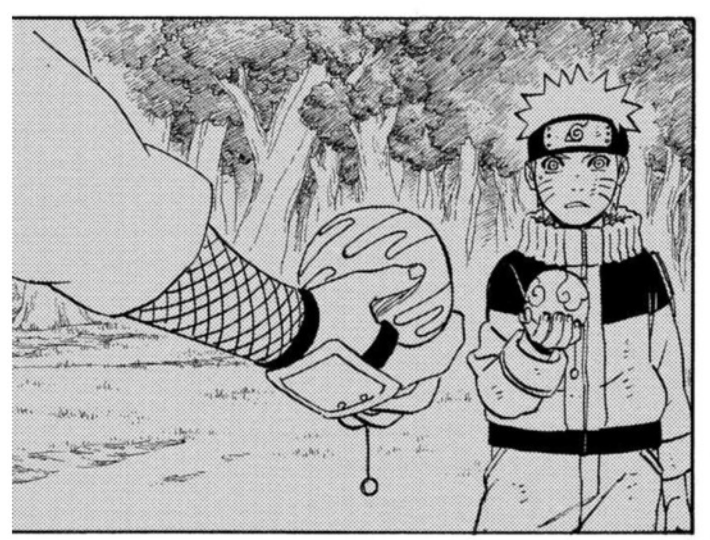

I CAN SEE THAT THAT CHILD TRULY LOVED N' ADMIRED JIRAIYA-BOY.
IT MAKES ME HOPE MORE THAN ANYTHIN'...
...THAT HE IS THE CHILD O' PROPHECY.

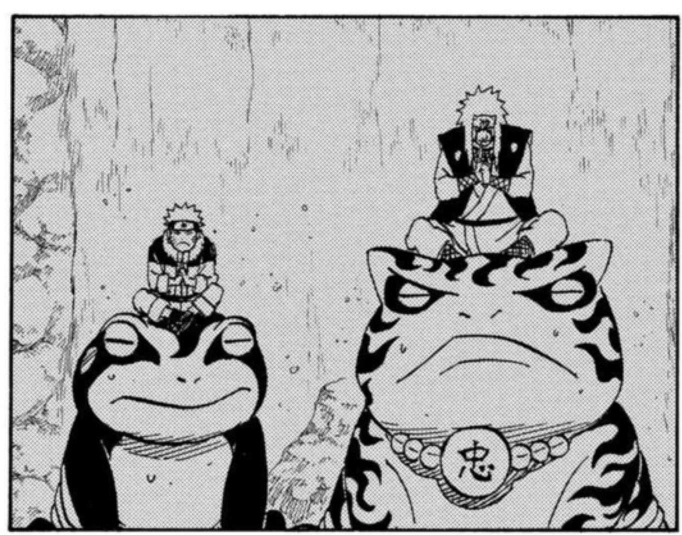


READ THIS WAY
















YO, NARUTO!
!
うどん




I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN REAL ACTIVE ON MISSIONS AND SUCH.
EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE IS TALKING ABOUT YOU.


HEY, LET'S GO SOMEWHERE AND CATCH UP!
WANT TO GO TO ICHIRAKU? HAVE SOME RAMEN?
めし所
酒



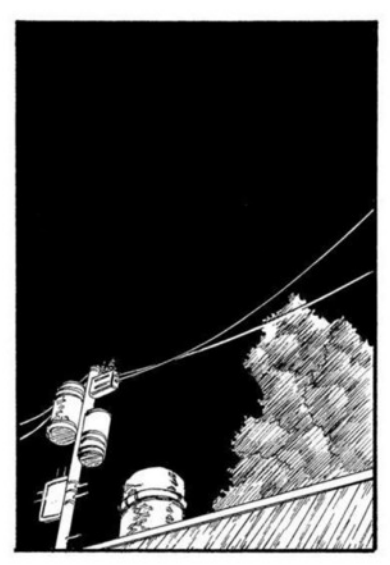

...


READ
THIS
WAY


めし所
NO THANKS ...
SHUP




めし所

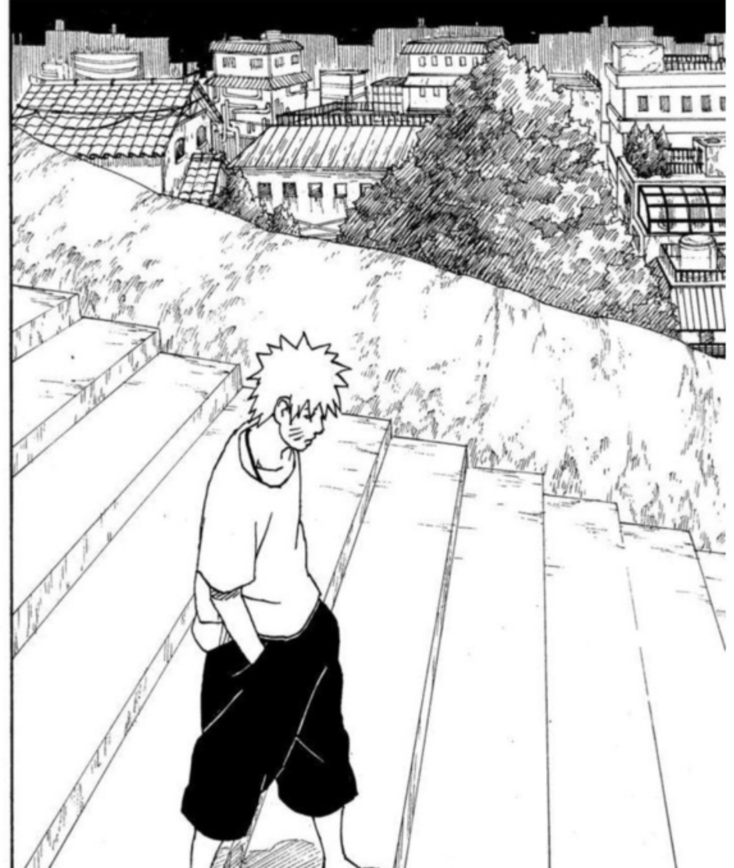


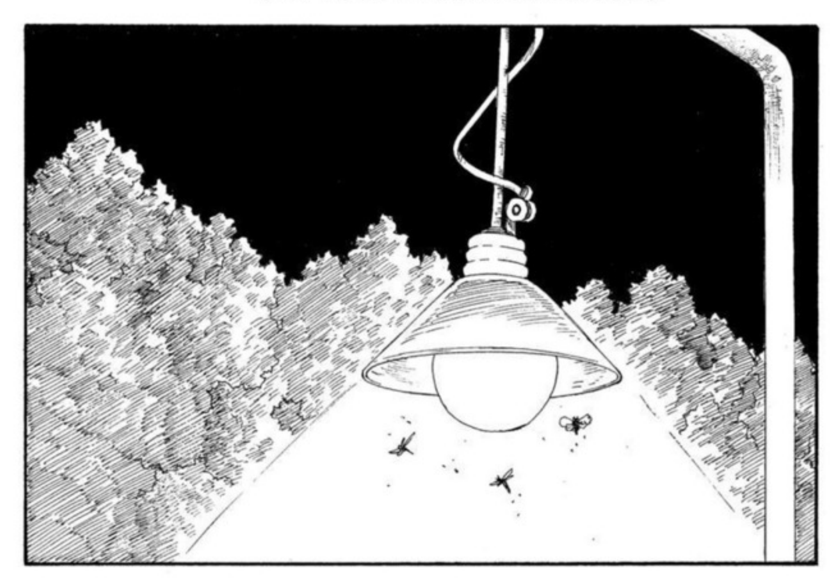



RAMEN
水
WEEKLY
NINJUTSU

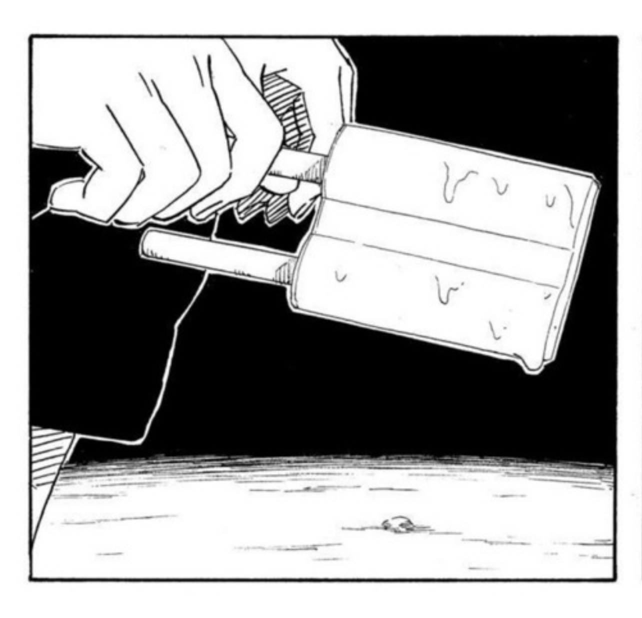


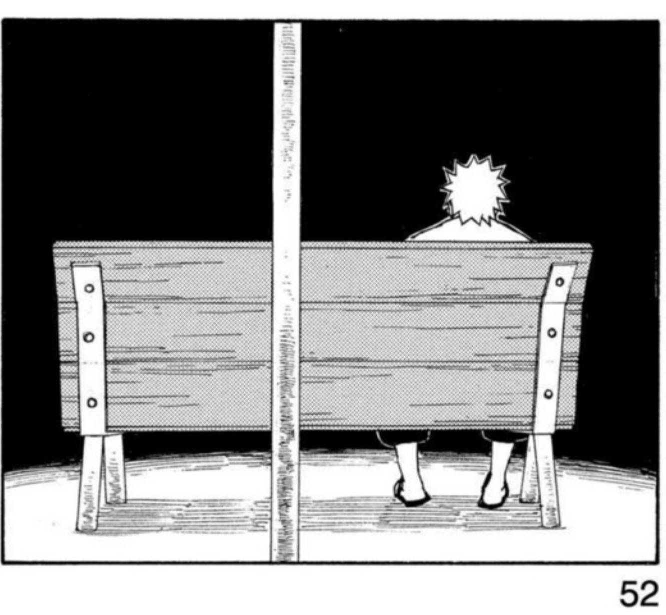
(24-Hour Convenience Store)







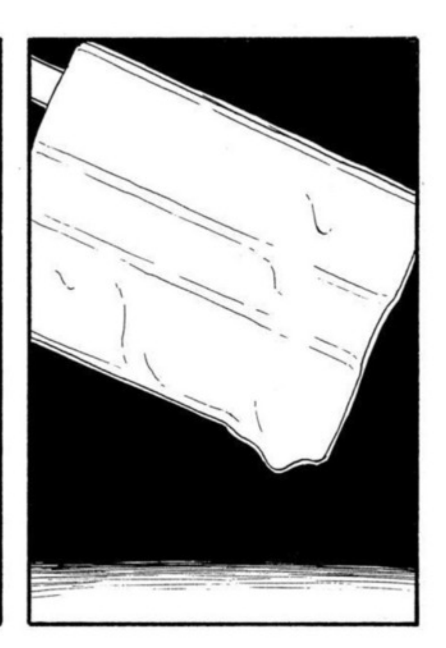




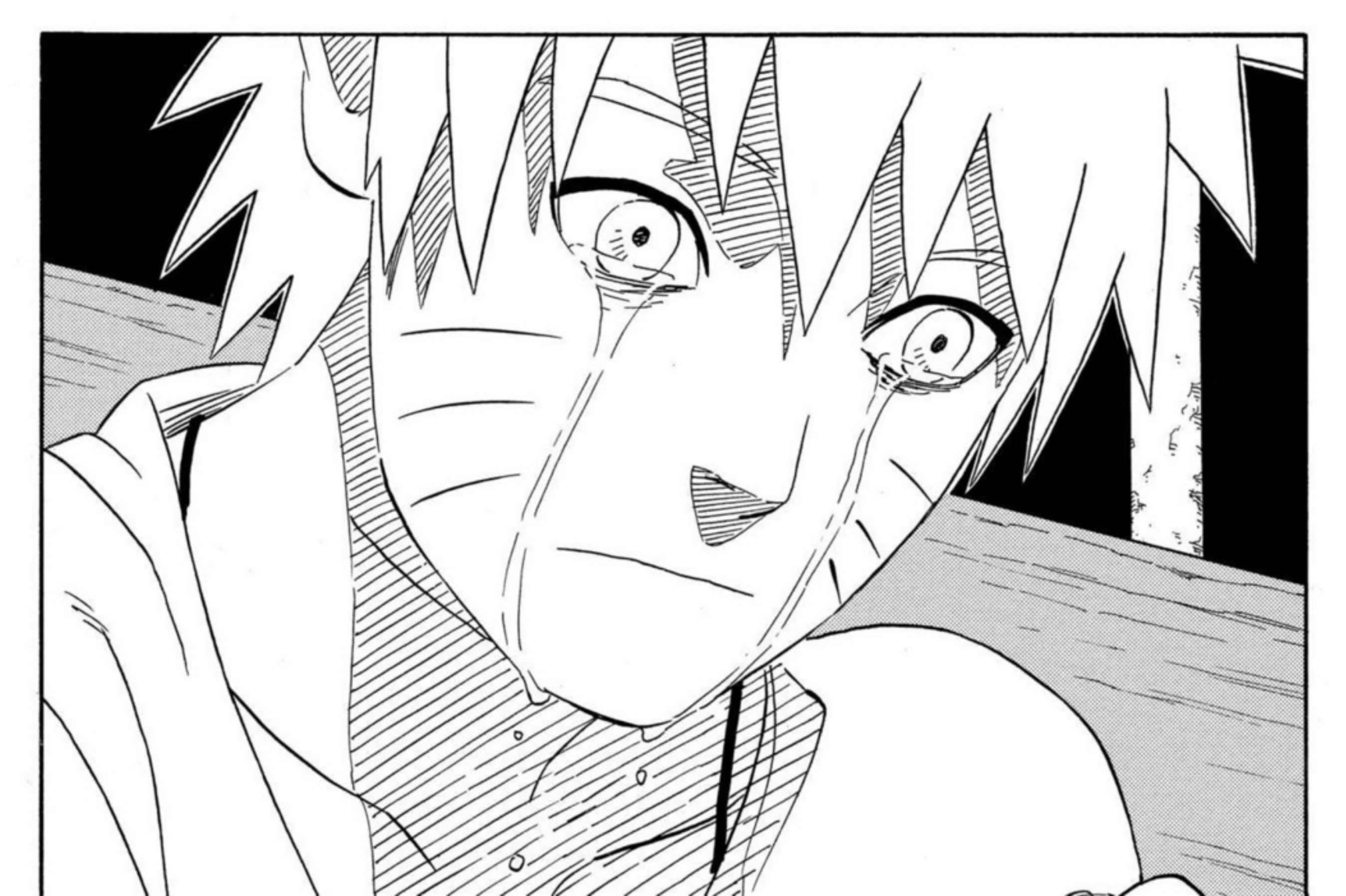

READ THIS WAY


PITTER...



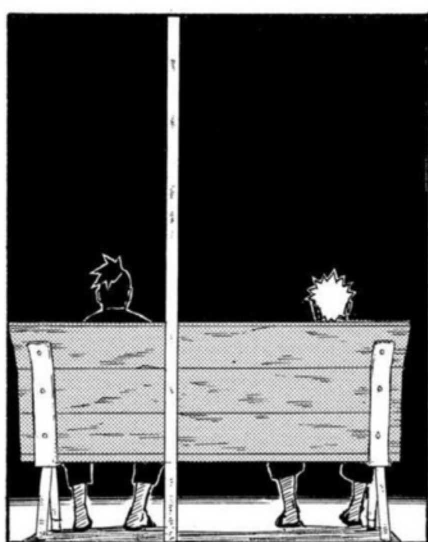



SPATTER
SPATTER




SHUUG SHUUG

NARUTO...
...!

...I HEARD ABOUT LORD JIRAIYA.
TMP


...

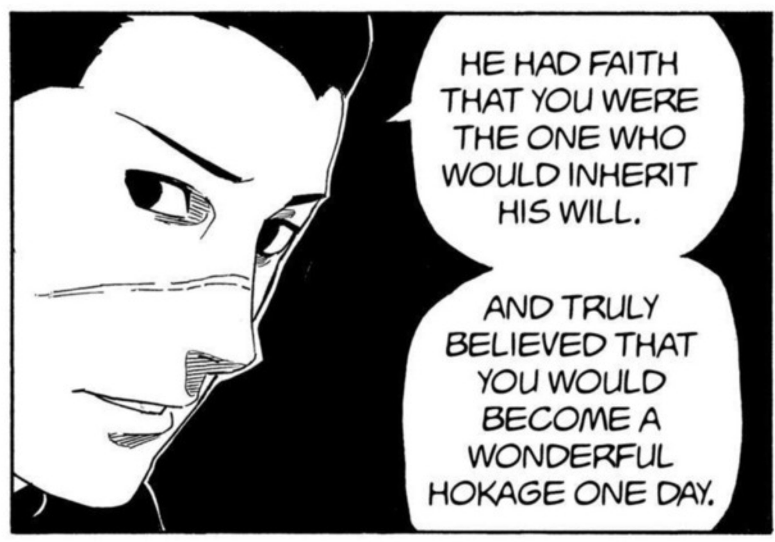
I... WANTED HIM TO KEEP WATCHING OVER ME...
...WANTED HIM TO SEE ME BECOME HOKAGE...

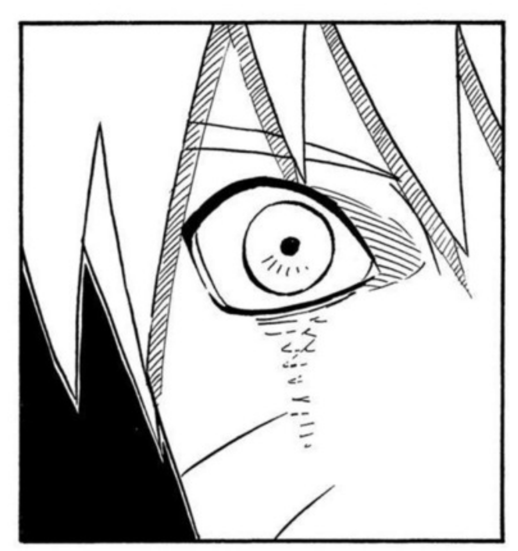
BUT I ONLY ENDED UP SHOWING PERVY SAGE THE WORST, MOST UN-COOL SIDE OF ME...
I...

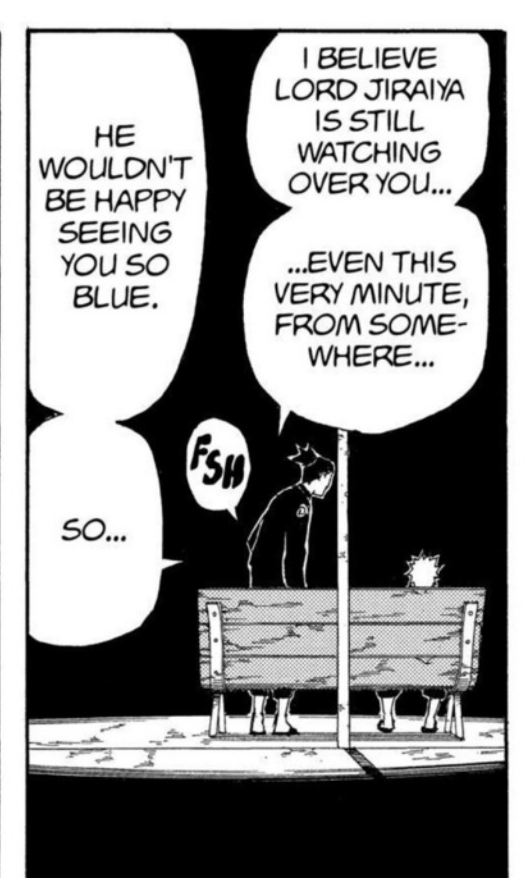

READ THIS WAY


LORD JIRAIYA ONLY EVER HAD PRAISE FOR YOU.
HE WAS ALWAYS BOASTING ABOUT YOU, SAYING YOU WERE LIKE HIS OWN GRAND-CHILD.




HE HAD FAITH THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WOULD INHERIT HIS WILL.
AND TRULY BELIEVED THAT YOU WOULD BECOME A WONDERFUL HOKAGE ONE DAY.




I BELIEVE LORD JIRAIYA IS STILL WATCHING OVER YOU...
...EVEN THIS VERY MINUTE, FROM SOME-WHERE...
HE WOULDN'T BE HAPPY SEEING YOU SO BLUE.
SO...
FSH


...JUST GO BACK TO BEING THE YOU THAT HE PRAISED.
CHEER UP!


!

FOR YOU ARE A DISTINGUISHED STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGED BY LORD JIRAIYA OF THE PRODIGAL THREE HIMSELF.

PTAK

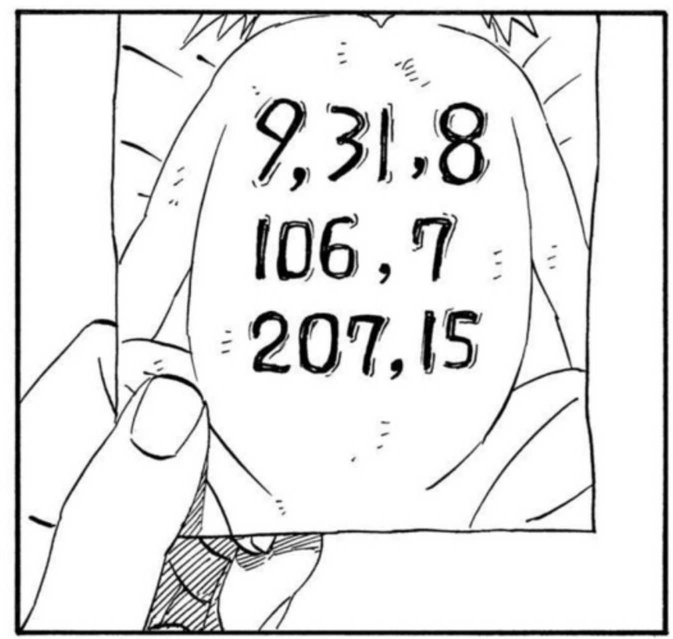


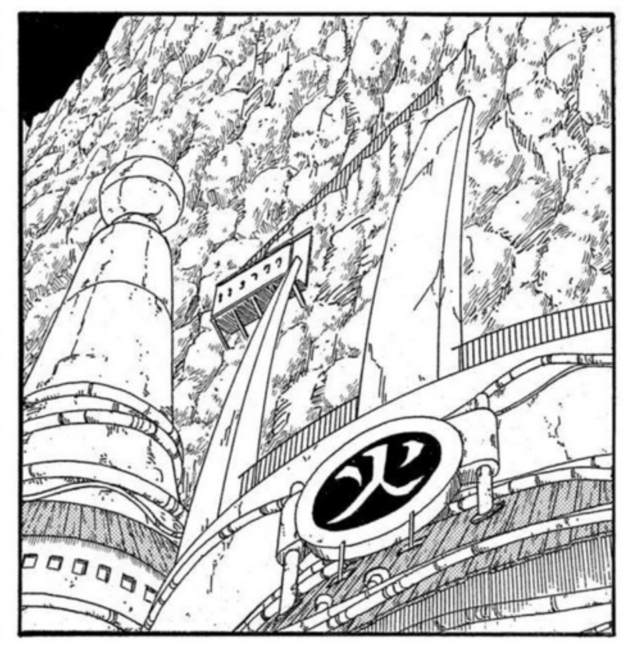




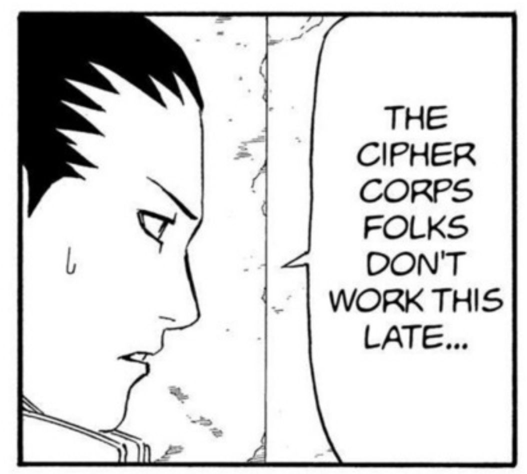



READ THIS WAY


9,31,8
106,7
207,15




TAKE THAT OVER TO THEM RIGHT AWAY.
HUH?! RIGHT NOW?


THE CIPHER CORPS FOLKS DON'T WORK THIS LATE...


THEN SUMMON THEM AND TELL THEM IT'S ON MY ORDERS.
I'M PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF THE DECODING.
FSH

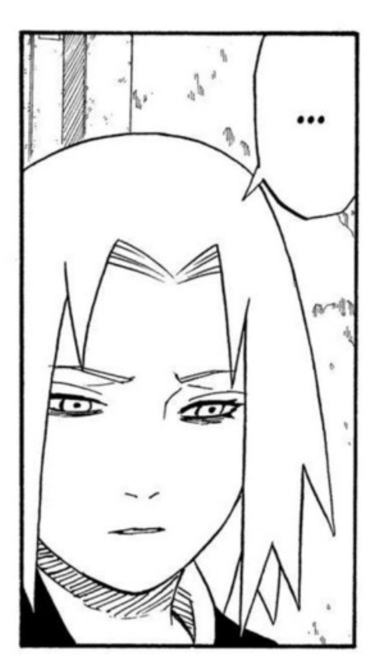

KLAK
KLAK
HEY... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I ACTUALLY CAME HERE ON OTHER...

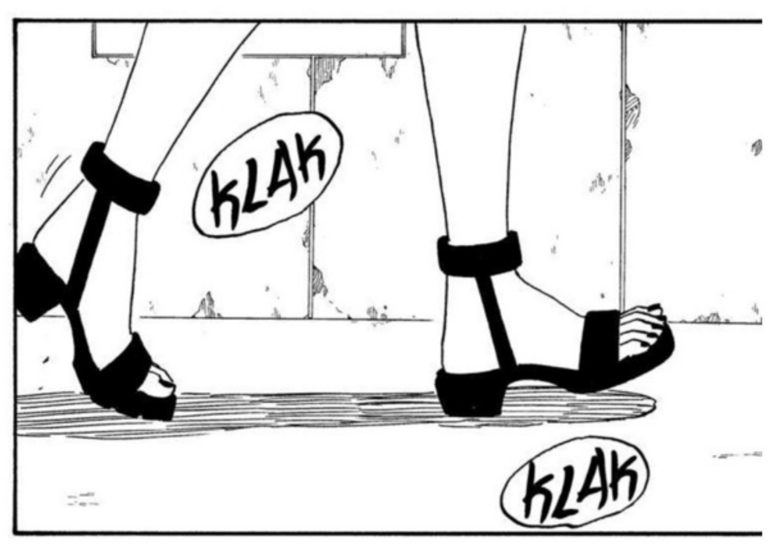

SHIKA-MARU!
BUT...
LADY TSUNADE'S BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY ALL DAY.


KLOMP


WELL, SO HAVE...
SHIKA-MARU.
PLEASE...


?


...

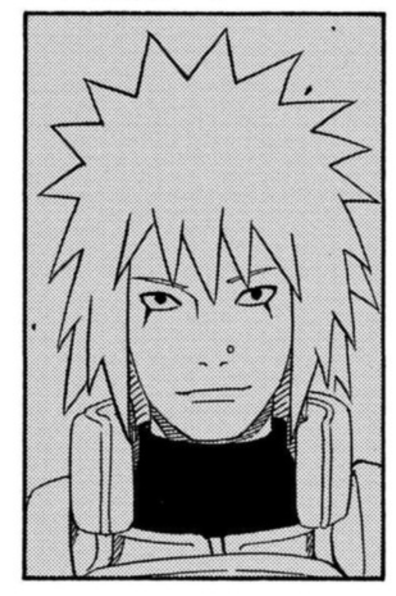

KLAK
KLAK

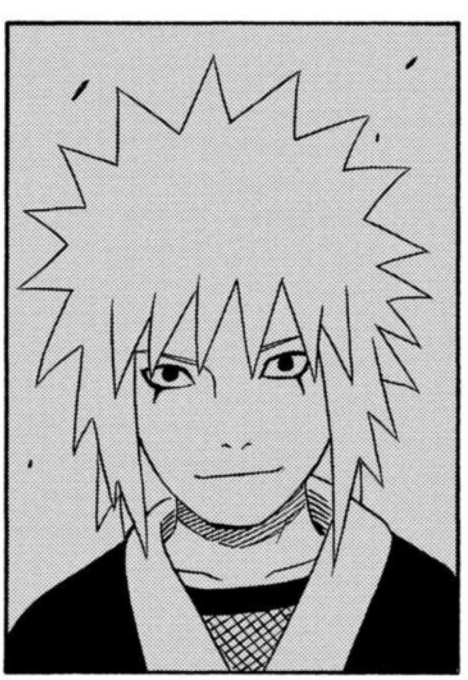

KLA...

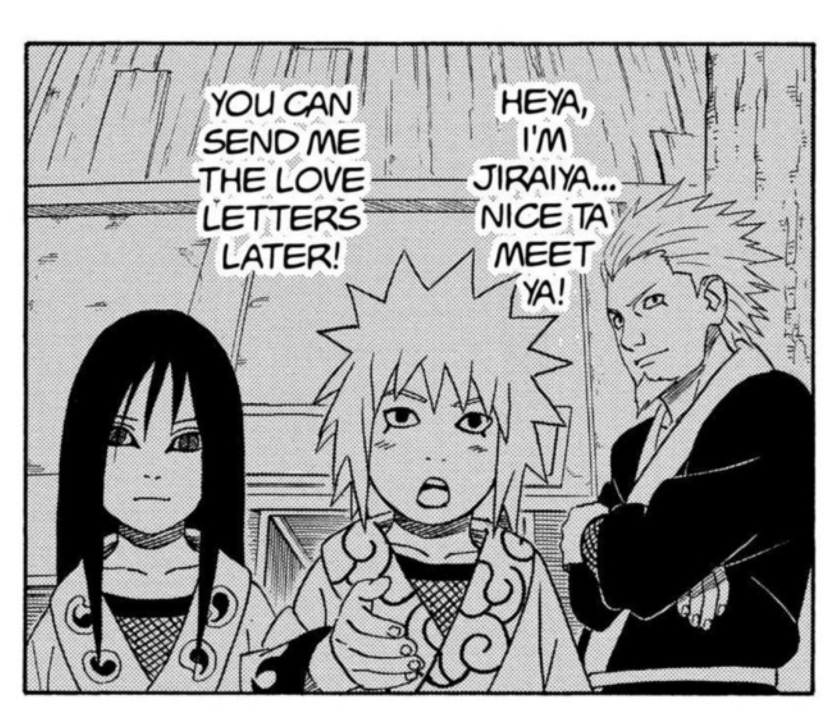

READ
THIS
WAY


泰然自若

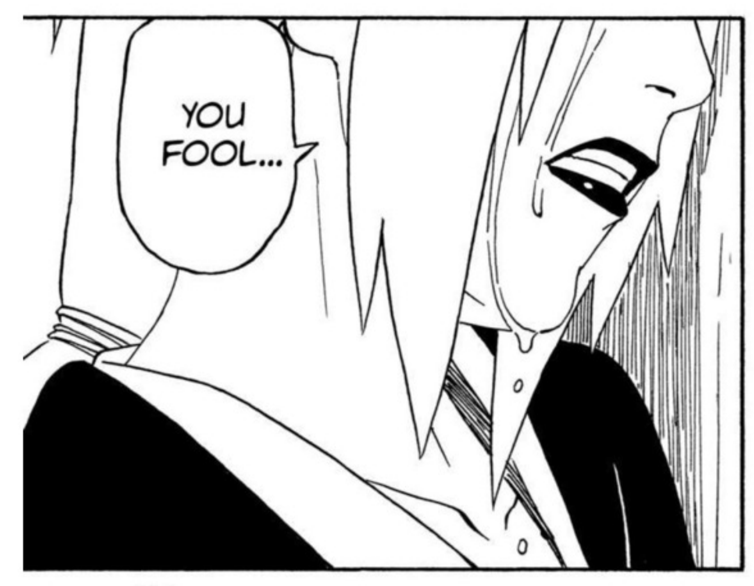

油

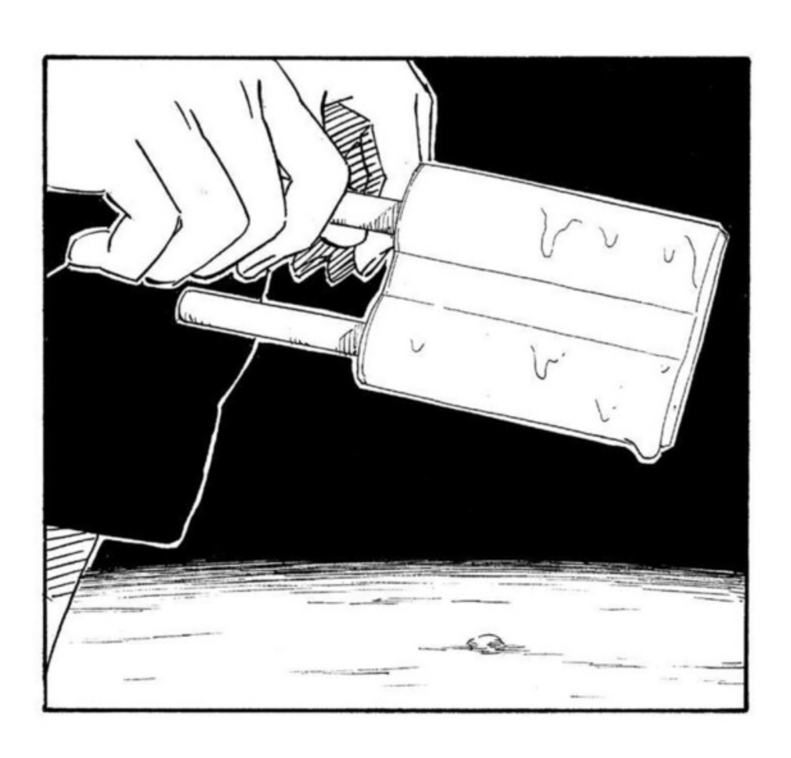


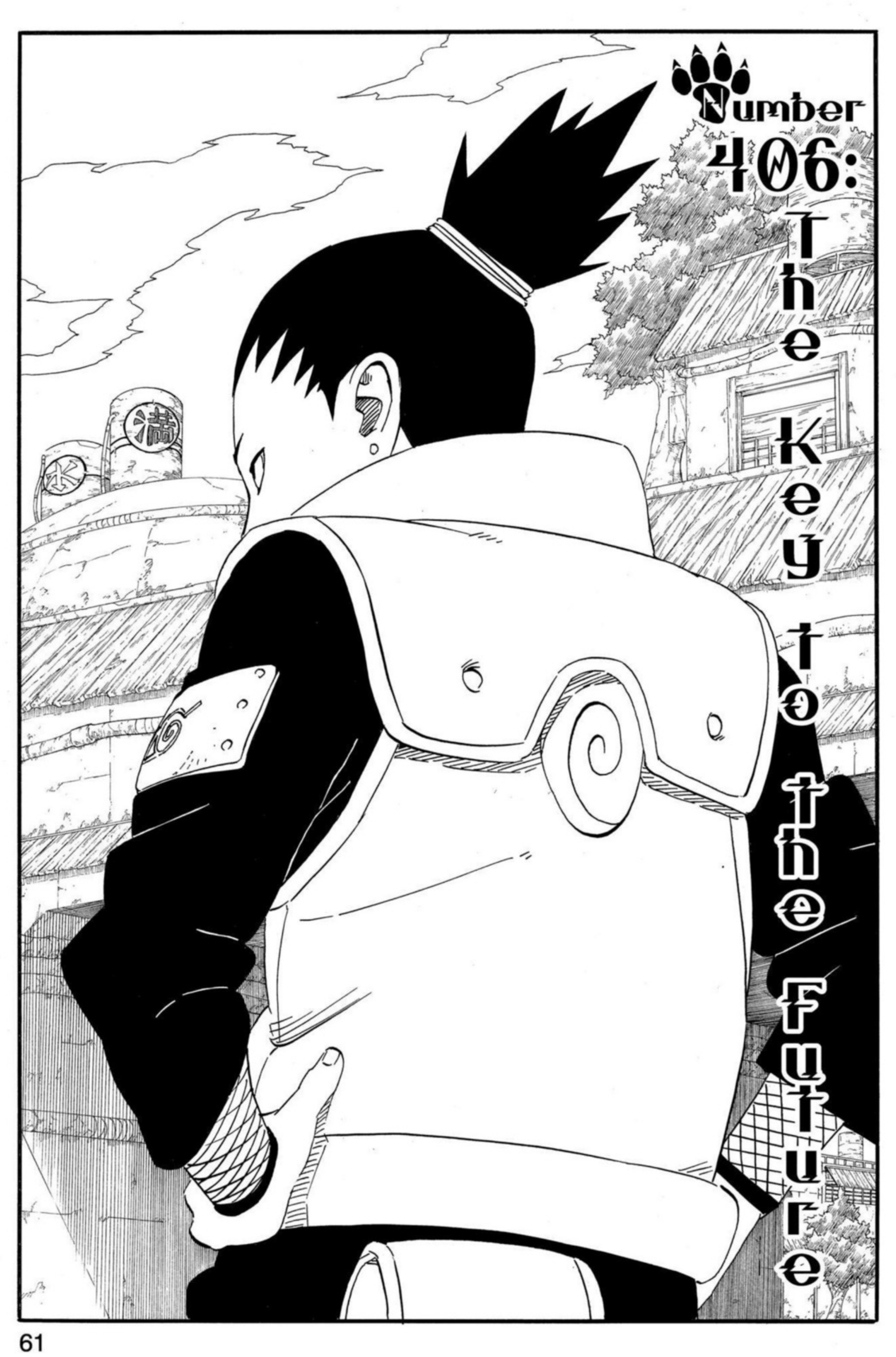


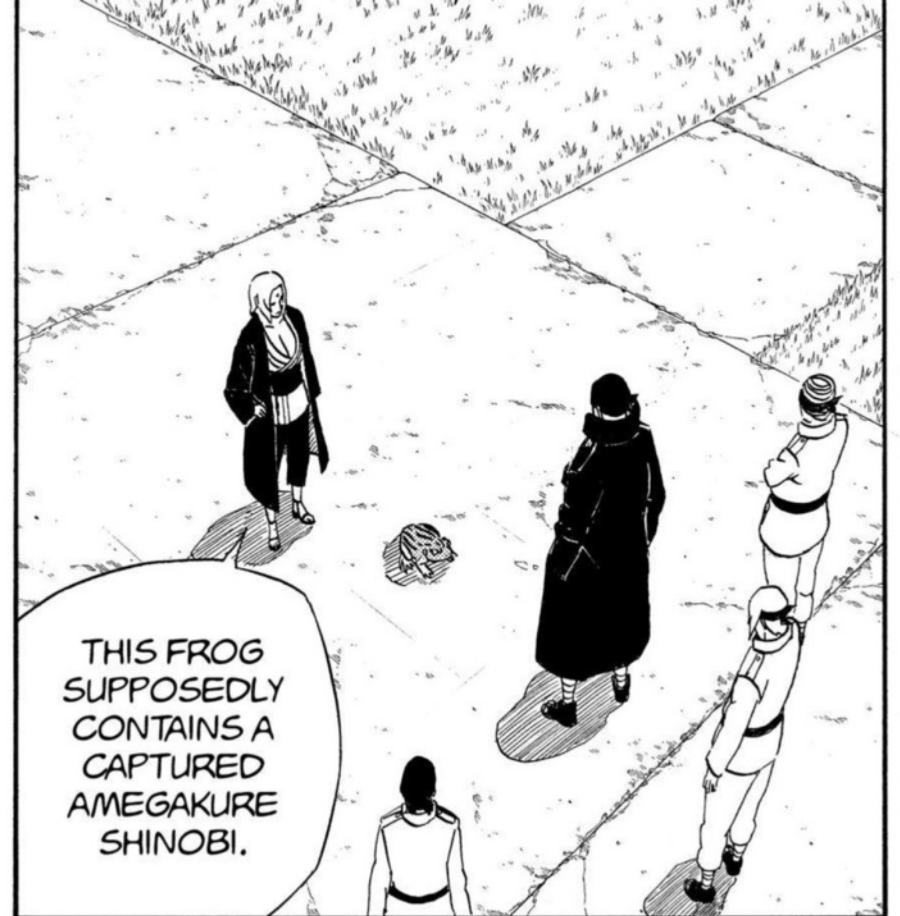

HEYA, I'M JIRAIYA... NICE TA MEET YA!
YOU CAN SEND ME THE LOVE LETTERS LATER!

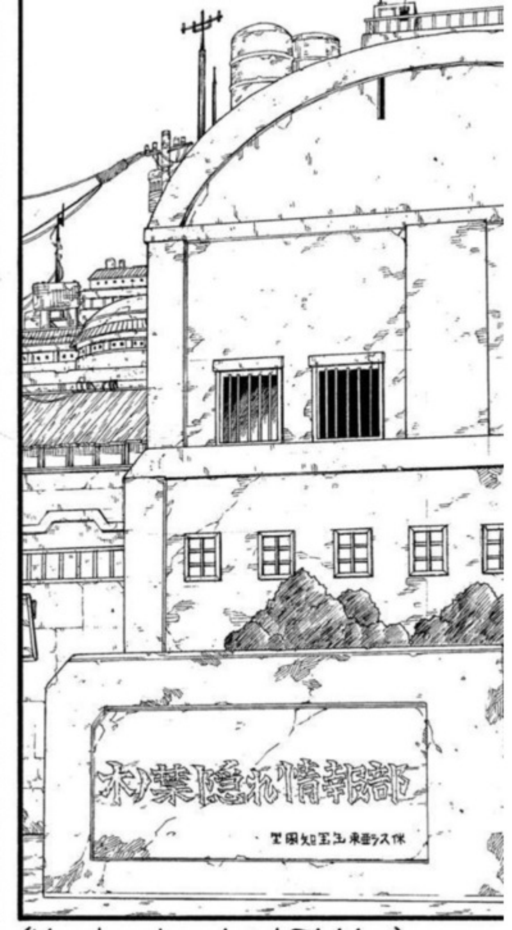

HEE HEE HEE


YOU FOOL...




Number 406: The Key to the Future

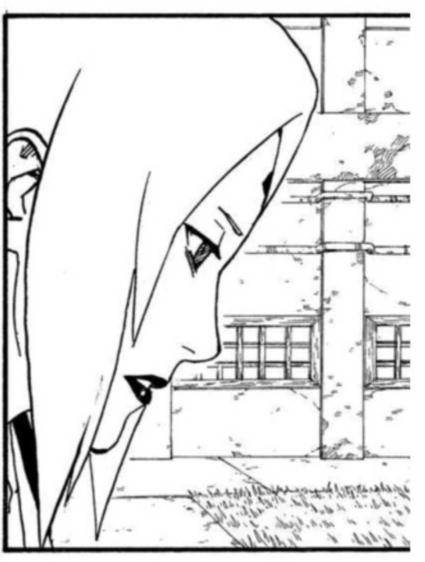



(Konohagakure Intel Division)

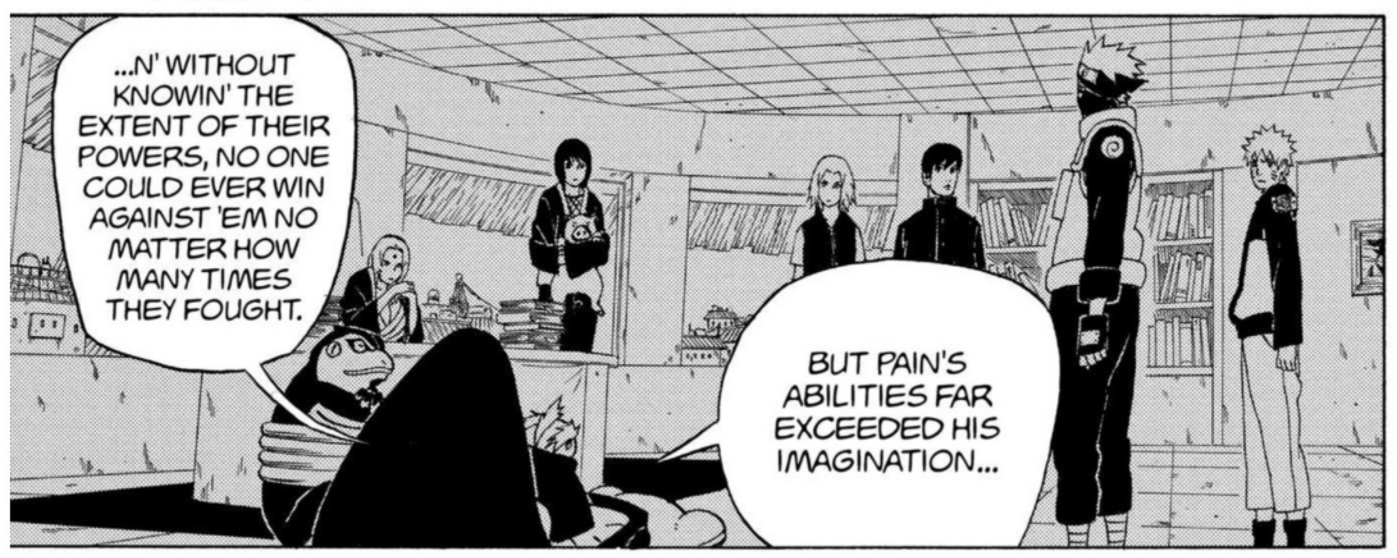


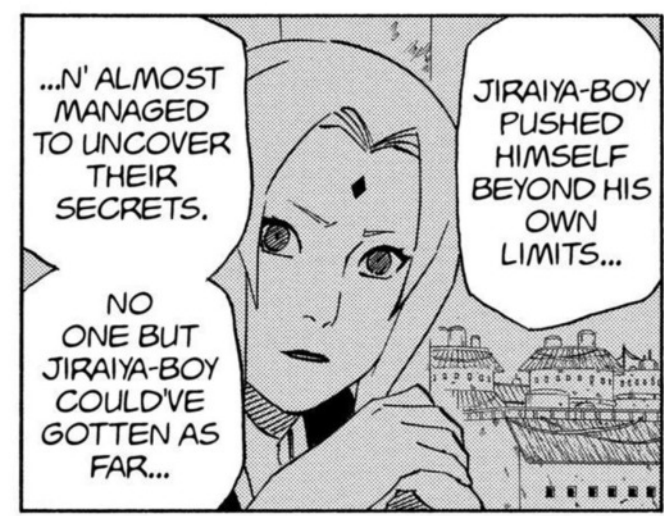


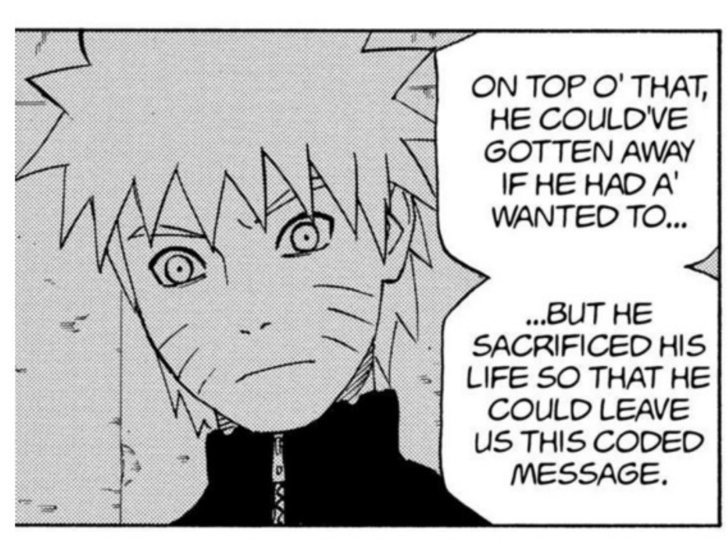




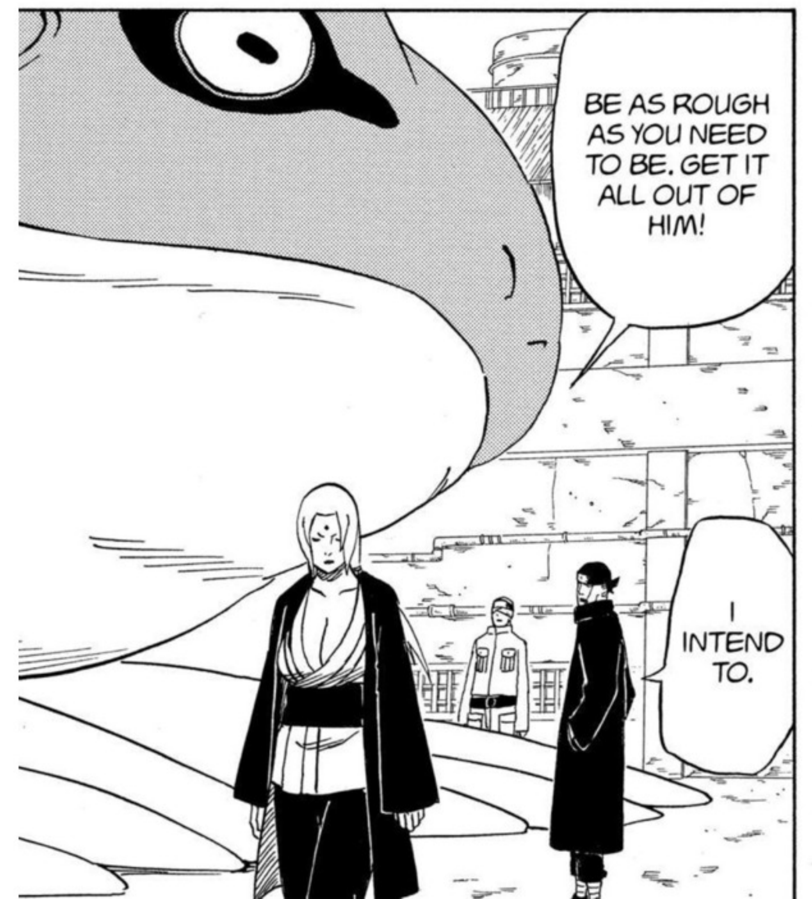

READ THIS WAY


...N' WITHOUT KNOWIN' THE EXTENT OF THEIR POWERS, NO ONE COULD EVER WIN AGAINST 'EM NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY FOUGHT.
BUT PAIN'S ABILITIES FAR EXCEEDED HIS IMAGINATION...


JIRAIYA-BOY PUSHED HIMSELF BEYOND HIS OWN LIMITS...
...N' ALMOST MANAGED TO UNCOVER THEIR SECRETS.
NO ONE BUT JIRAIYA-BOY COULD'VE GOTTEN AS FAR...


ON TOP O' THAT, HE COULD'VE GOTTEN AWAY IF HE HAD A' WANTED TO...
...BUT HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE SO THAT HE COULD LEAVE US THIS CODED MESSAGE.


HE BEQUEATHED THE FUTURE TO Y'ALL.

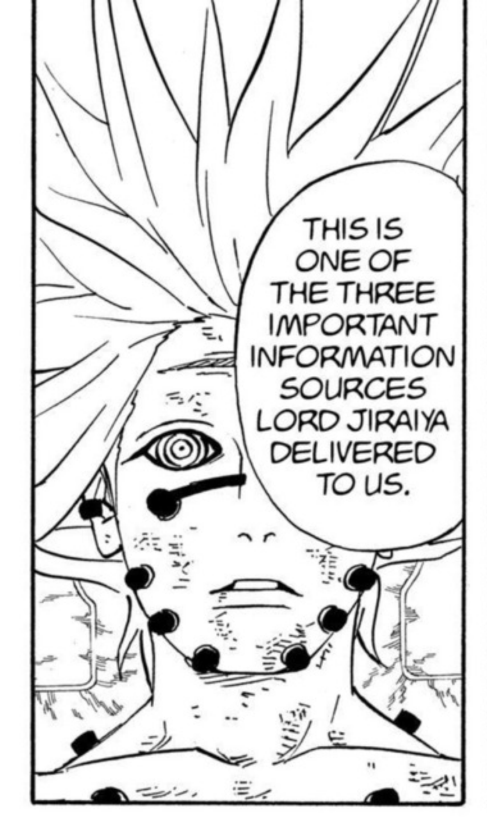

BE AS ROUGH AS YOU NEED TO BE. GET IT ALL OUT OF HIM!
I INTEND TO.

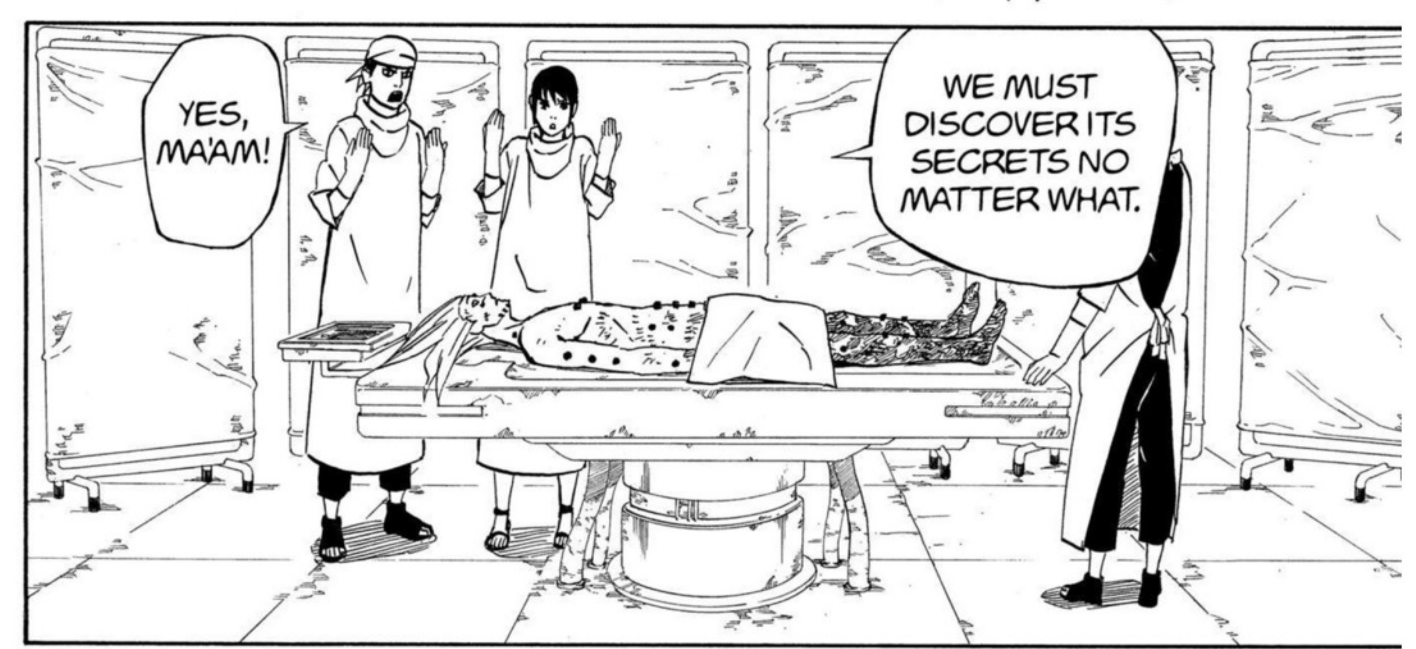




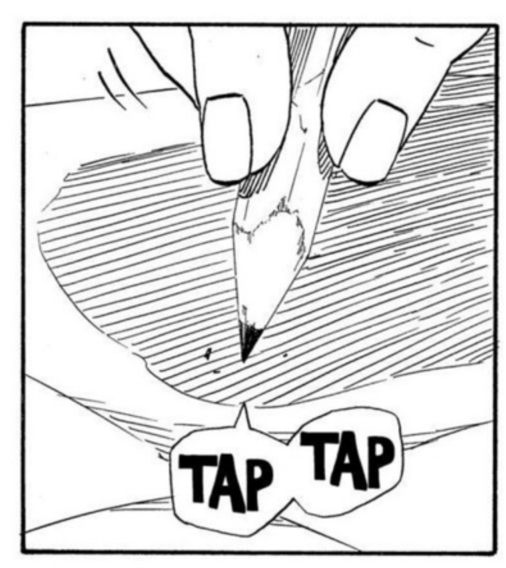
(Autopsy Room 3)







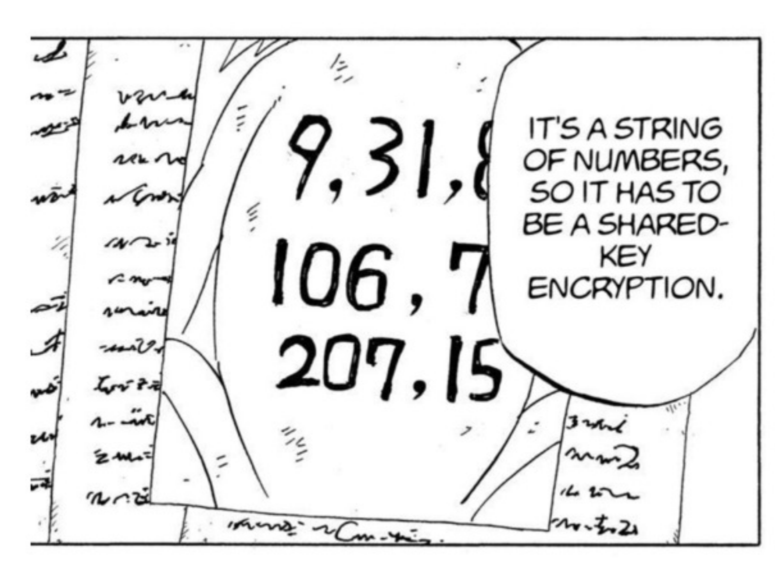





READ THIS WAY


WELL?
HMM... THIS ISN'T IN ANY KONOHA CODE.
IT DOESN'T CORRESPOND TO ANY OF OUR ALGORITHMS.


BUT CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT LORD JIRAIYA WROTE THIS IN A RUSH...
...I DON'T THINK IT COULD BE ANYTHING TOO COMPLEX.

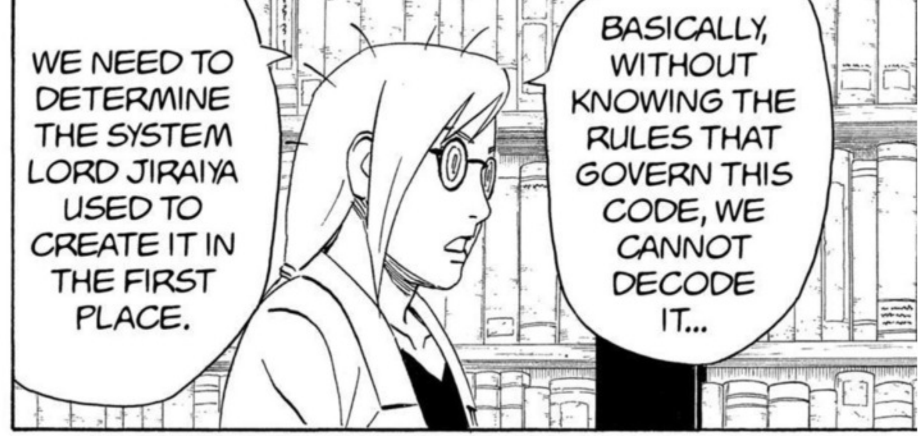

IT'S A STRING OF NUMBERS, SO IT HAS TO BE A SHARED-KEY ENCRYPTION.
9, 31, 8
106, 7
207, 15


CAN YOU DECODE IT?

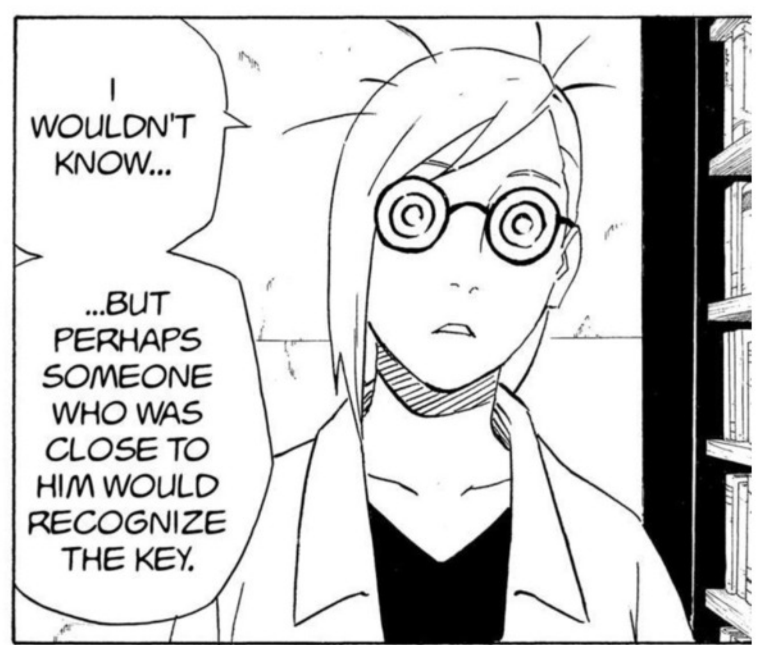

AHEM!


KLIK
UNLESS WE KNOW WHAT THE KEY IS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!


KEY?

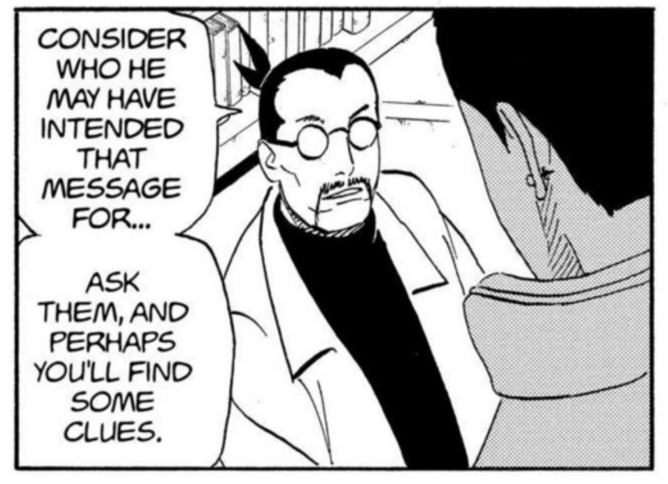

BASICALLY, WITHOUT KNOWING THE RULES THAT GOVERN THIS CODE, WE CANNOT DECODE IT...
WE NEED TO DETERMINE THE SYSTEM LORD JIRAIYA USED TO CREATE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.


SO HOW DO WE DO THAT?


I WOULDN'T KNOW...
...BUT PERHAPS SOMEONE WHO WAS CLOSE TO HIM WOULD RECOGNIZE THE KEY.

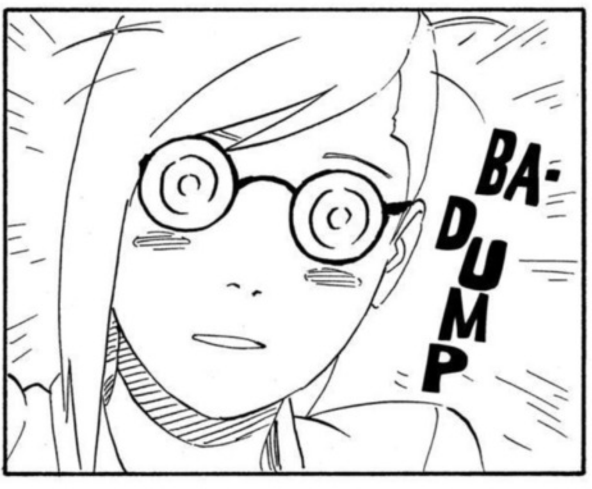

ALTHOUGH GIVEN THE CIRCUM-STANCES OF HIS DEATH...
...IF HE CAME UP WITH IT HASTILY TO PREVENT THE ENEMY FROM DISCERNING HIS MESSAGE, THE CHANCES ARE SLIMMER.

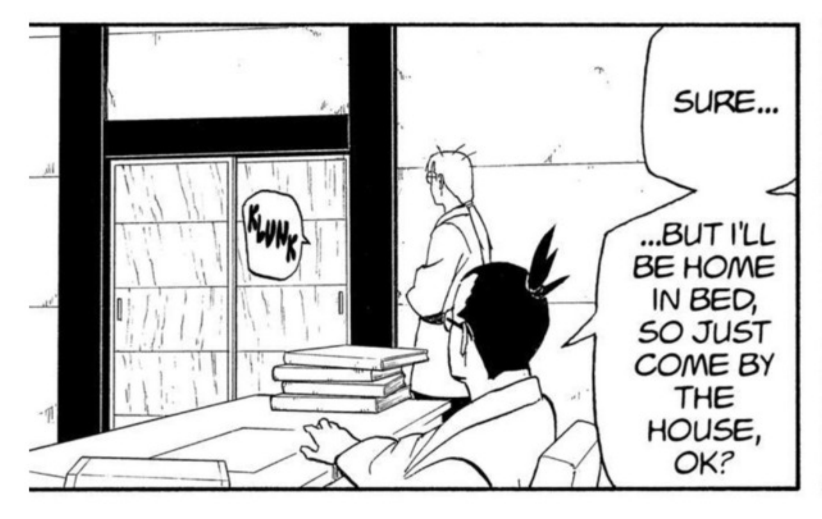

READ
THIS
WAY

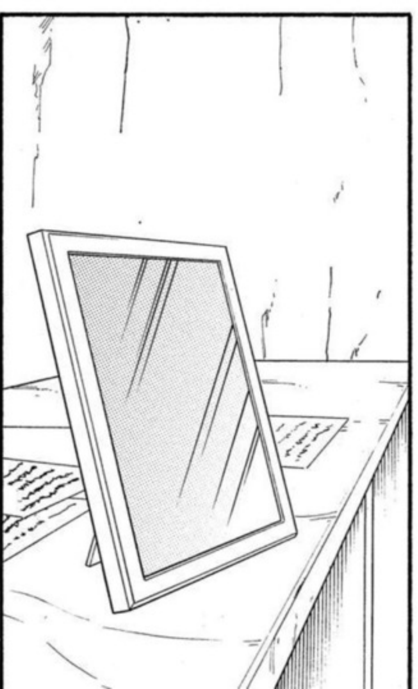

CONSIDER WHO HE MAY HAVE INTENDED THAT MESSAGE FOR...
ASK THEM, AND PERHAPS YOU'LL FIND SOME CLUES.


WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IF I FIND ANYTHING OUT, I'LL BE BACK...
KATOK KATOK

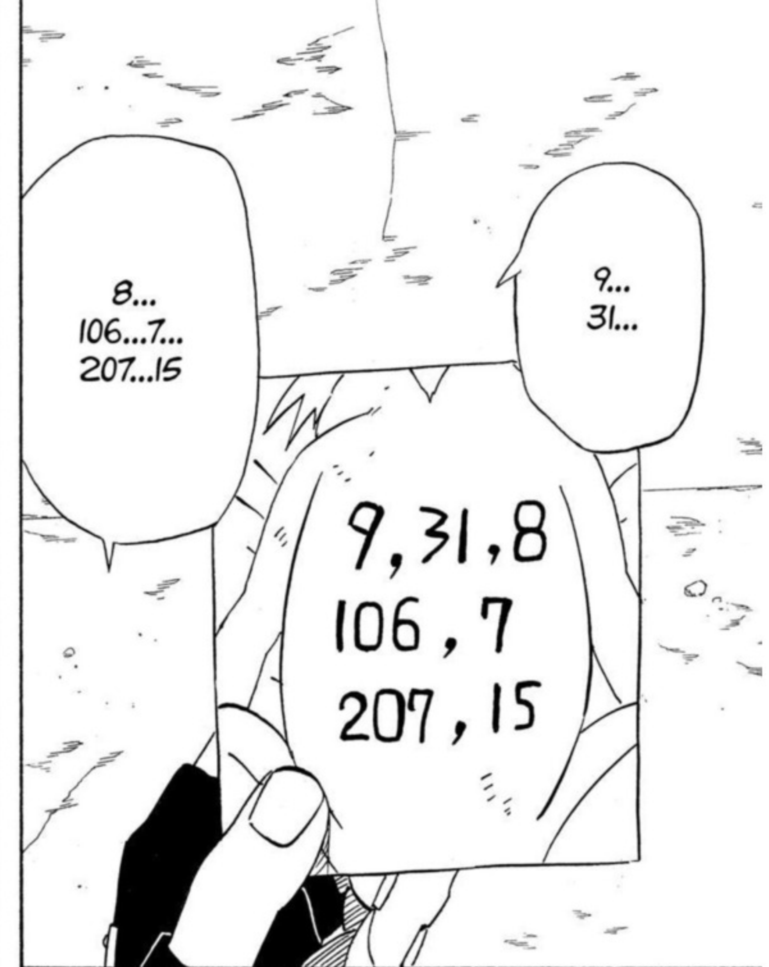

HMM...
THAT WOULD BE...
LADY FIFTH OR MASTER KAKASHI...


BA-DUMP


SURE...
...BUT I'LL BE HOME IN BED, SO JUST COME BY THE HOUSE, OK?
KLUNK




WELL... I'M HEADING HOME TO SLEEP.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHIHO?
SOMEONE'S GOTTA STAY BEHIND. ♪
SHRNNK
SHRNNK


9...
31...
8...
106...7...
207...15
9, 31, 8
106, 7
207, 15

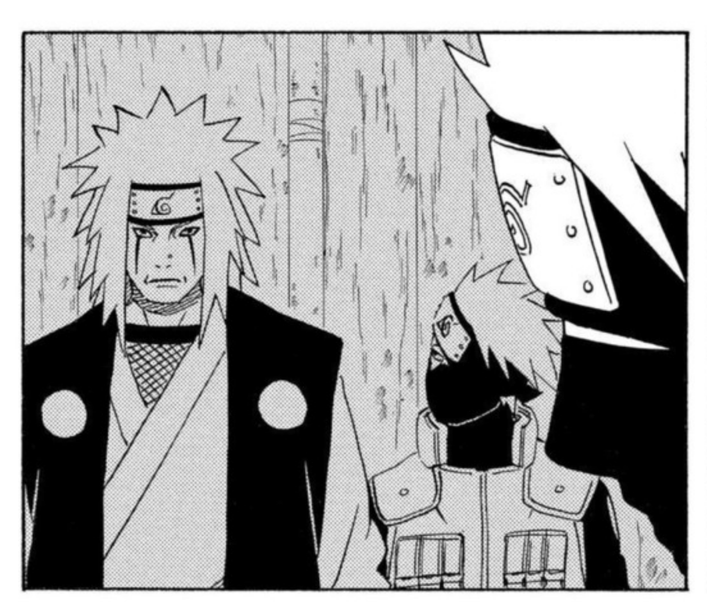

SHUP
SHUP


ANYTHING COME TO MIND?
ANY OF THESE NUMBERS EVER COME UP IN CONVERSATION WITH LORD JIRAIYA...?

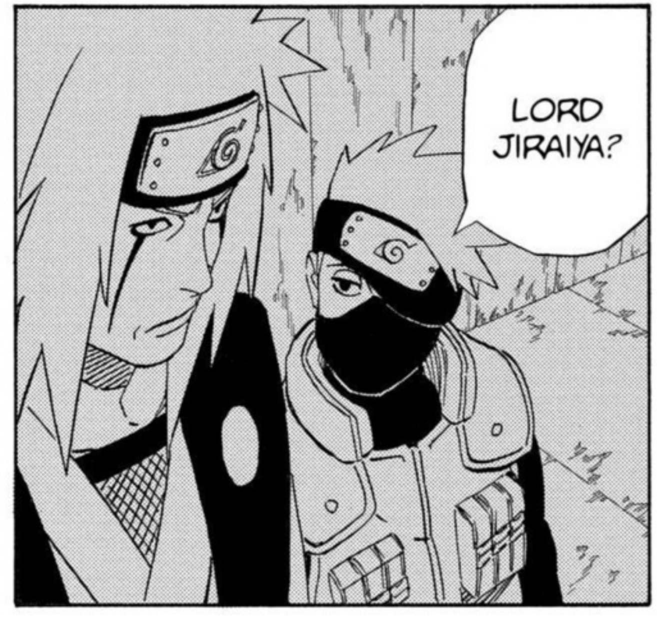

...


SKRITCH...


THIS ONE, 106...
YES?




READ
THIS
WAY


LORD JIRAIYA?


IT'S 106.
WHAT IS?


106 CENTI-METERS.
...

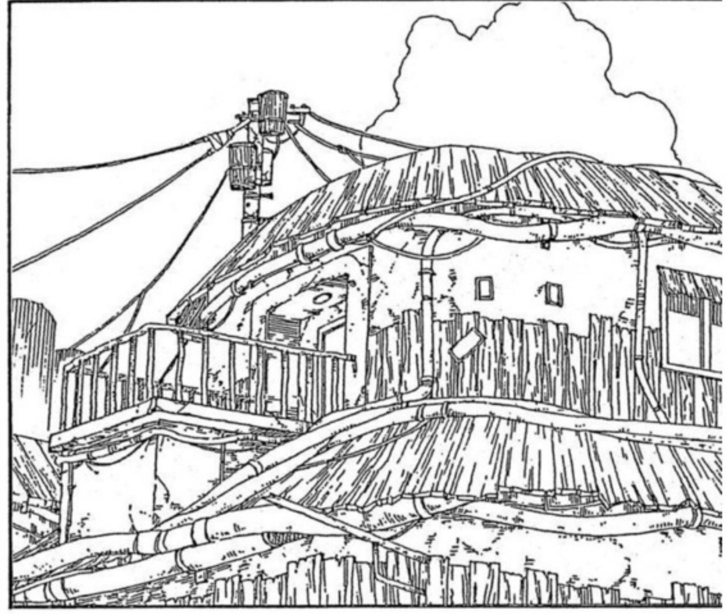

...
NAH...IT COULDN'T BE...
?


NOTHING'S COMING TO ME.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY LADY FIFTH OR NARUTO NEXT?


I'VE ALREADY ASKED LADY FIFTH.
SIGH... I GUESS THAT LEAVES NARUTO...


ASIDE FROM THE CODE, I'M A TAD WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
SO THANKS FOR CHECKING IN ON HIM.


NO PROMISES.



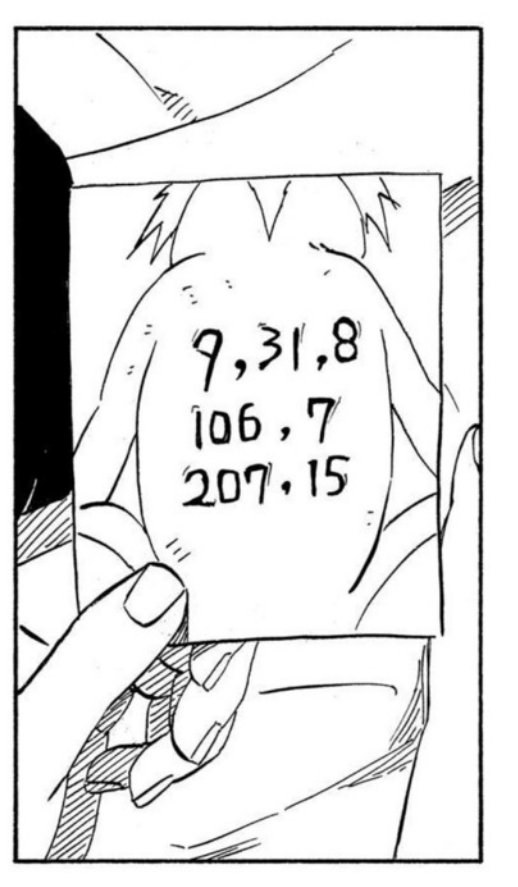

DING-DONG
DING-DONG
GAH, HE'S OUT.


KLAK
!

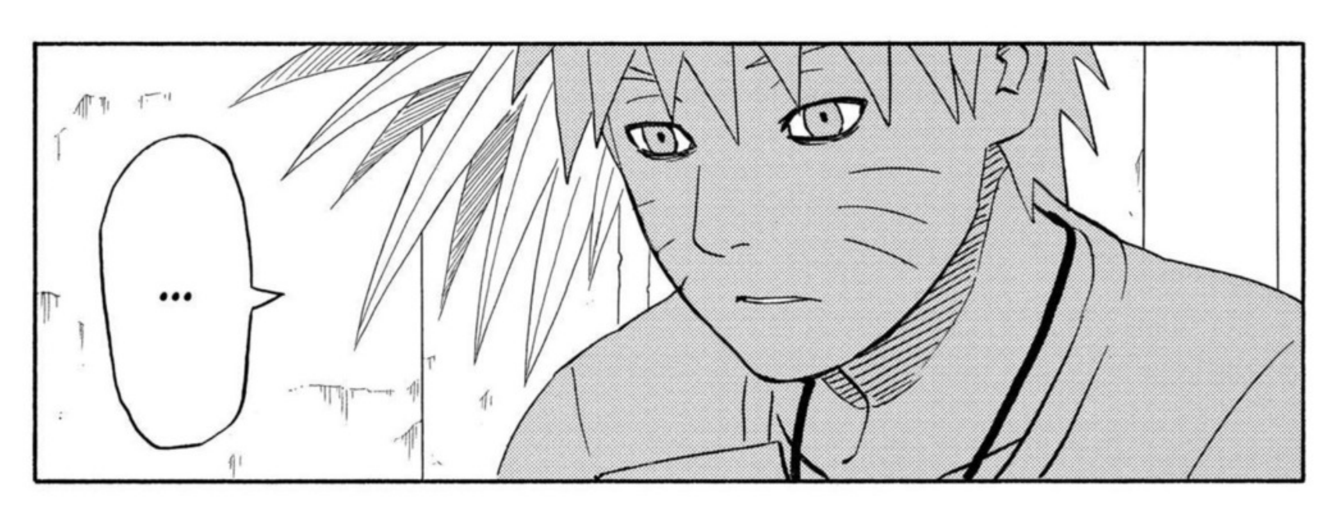

...OH. IT'S YOU, SHIKA-MARU.
WHADYA WANT?


CAN I COME IN?

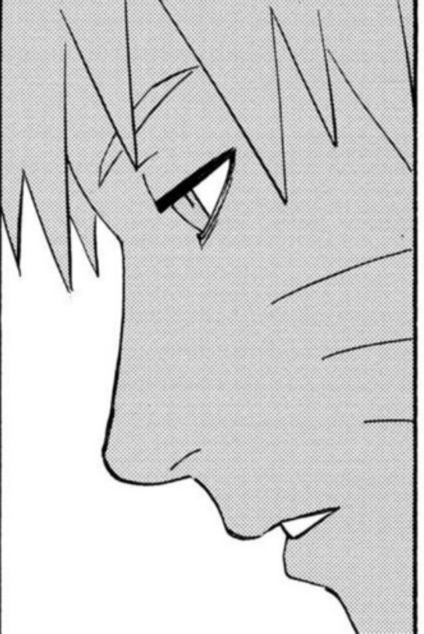

READ
THIS
WAY


9,31,8
106,7
207,15


WELL? DOES IT SEEM FAMILIAR AT ALL?


...

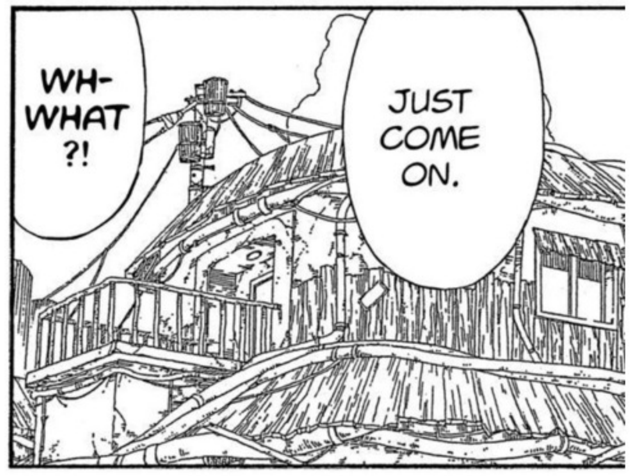

HEY NARUTO, YOU STILL WITH ME?

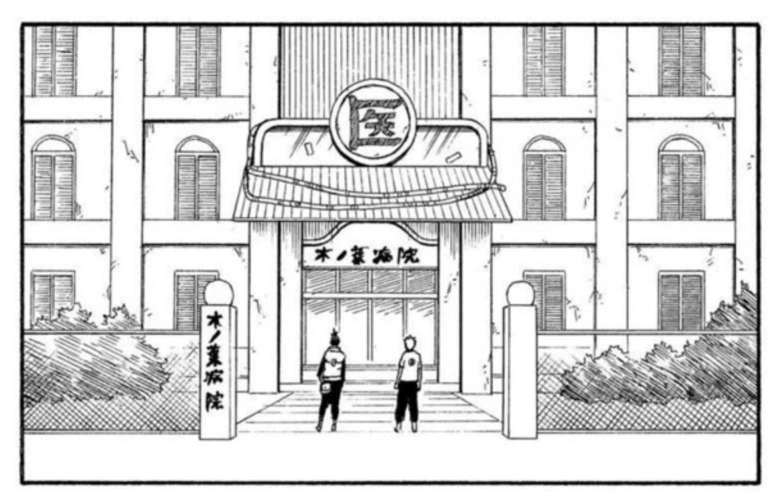



!

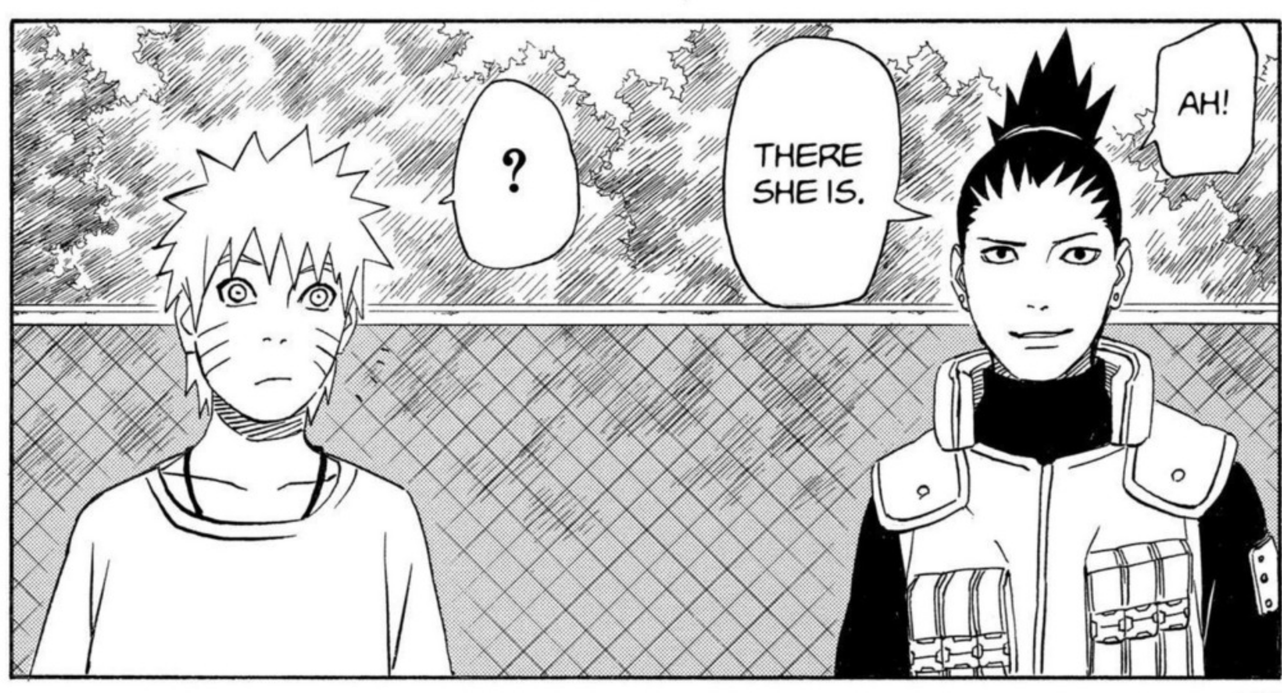








(Konoha Hospital)




READ THIS WAY


!


HUH?!
MISS KURENAI ...?!
YEAH...


...
YOU WERE HOSPITAL-IZED FOR EATING TOO MUCH BARBEQUE ?!!
YOUR STOMACH'S BIGGER THAN CHOJI'S!!
SHE'S **PREGNANT**, NOT FAT!
YIKES, YOU'RE STILL AS OBNOXIOUS AS EVER.


HUH?!
TH-THEN...


SHIKAMARU, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO STOP COMING HERE?

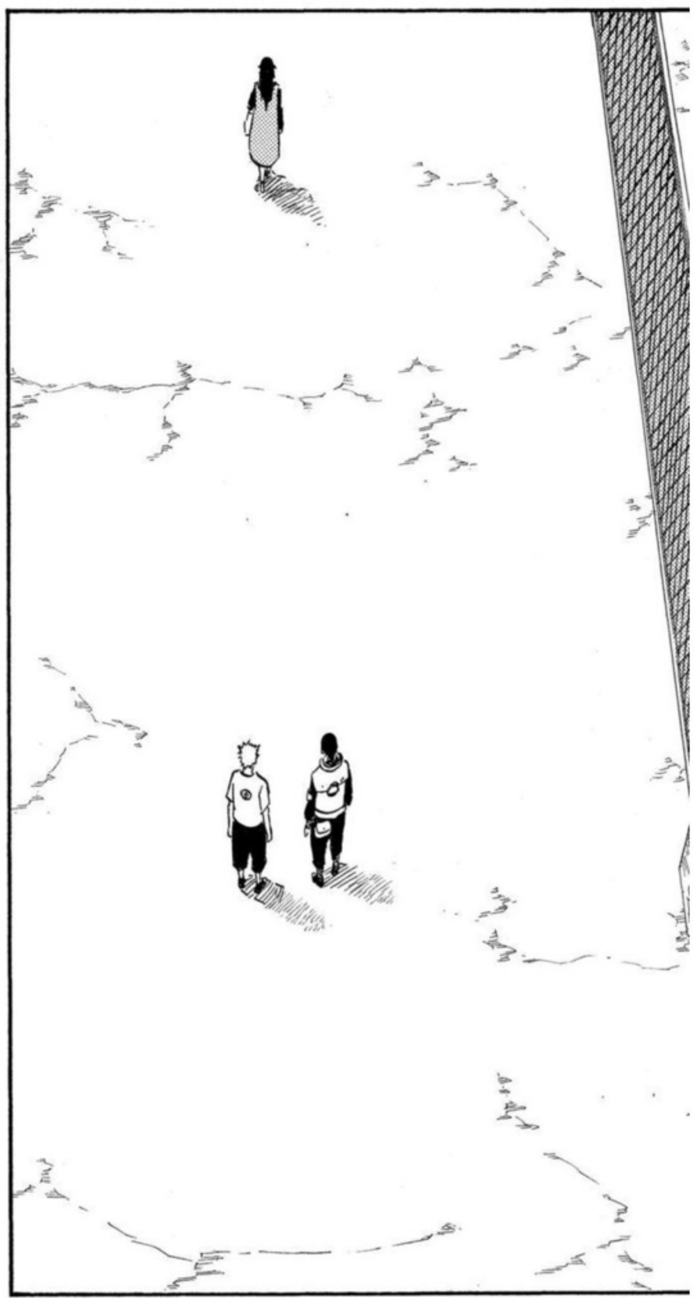

(Konoha Hospital)











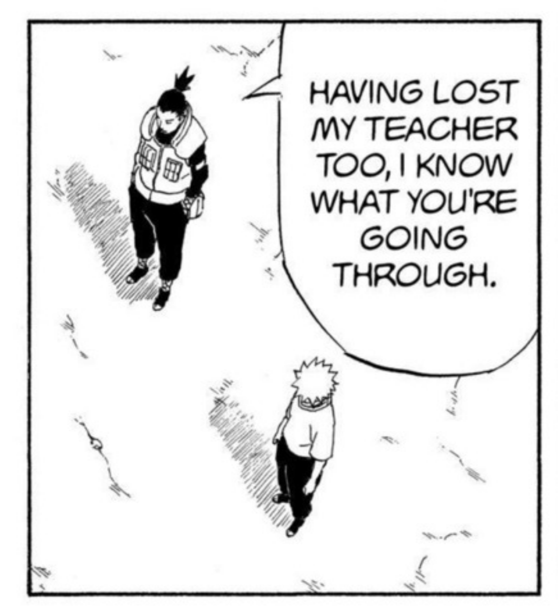

READ
THIS
WAY


ASUMA ENTRUSTED THAT CHILD TO ME.




I HEARD ABOUT LORD JIRAIYA.

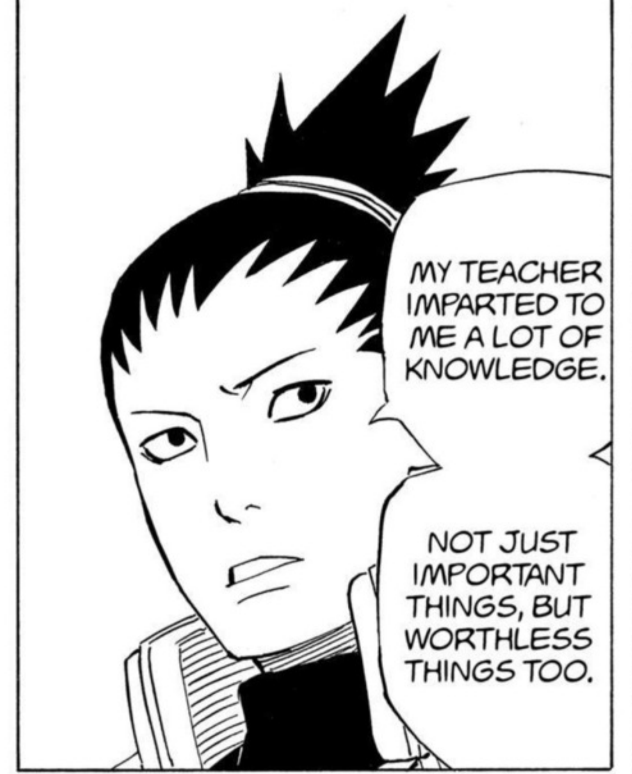

...

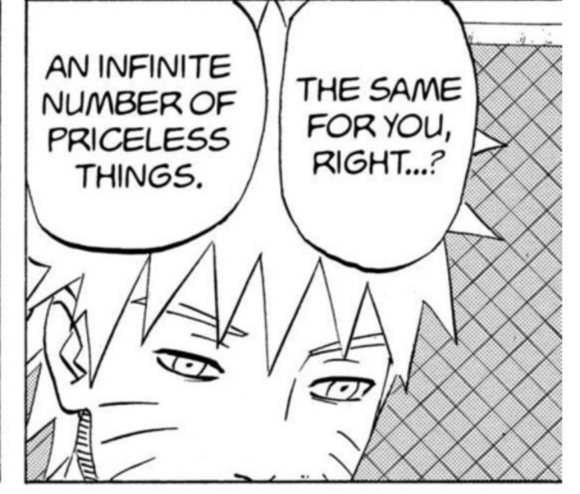

HAVING LOST MY TEACHER TOO, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.


BUT WHINING AND SULKING ISN'T GOING TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.



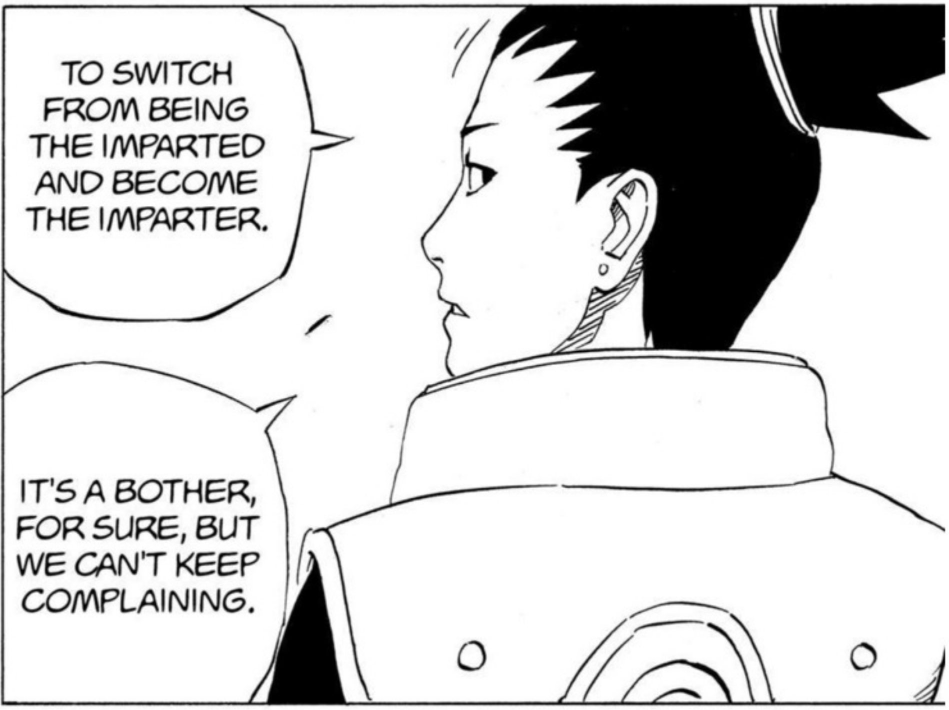

WE NO LONGER HAVE THE LUXURY OF GRIEF.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


MY TEACHER IMPARTED TO ME A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE.
NOT JUST IMPORTANT THINGS, BUT WORTHLESS THINGS TOO.


AN INFINITE NUMBER OF PRICELESS THINGS.
THE SAME FOR YOU, RIGHT...?

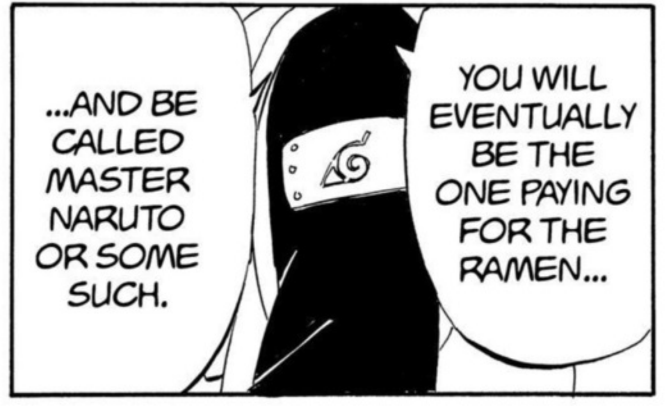

SO I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO STEP UP, NO?
STEP UP TO WHAT?


FSH


TO SWITCH FROM BEING THE IMPARTED AND BECOME THE IMPARTER.
IT'S A BOTHER, FOR SURE, BUT WE CAN'T KEEP COMPLAINING.

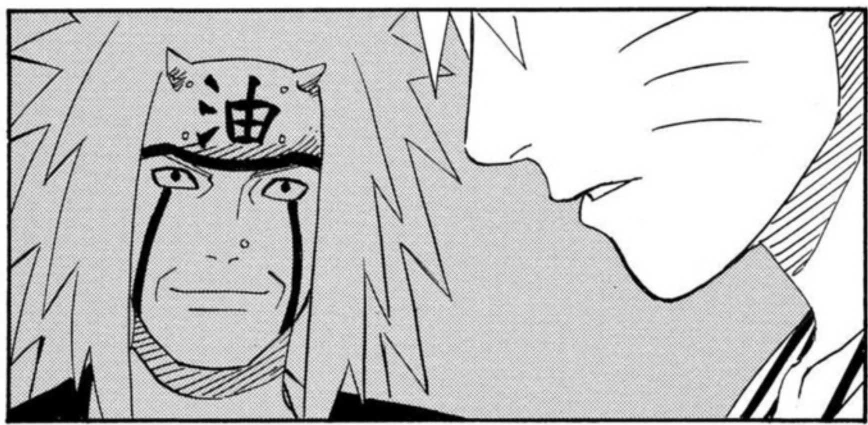

...!

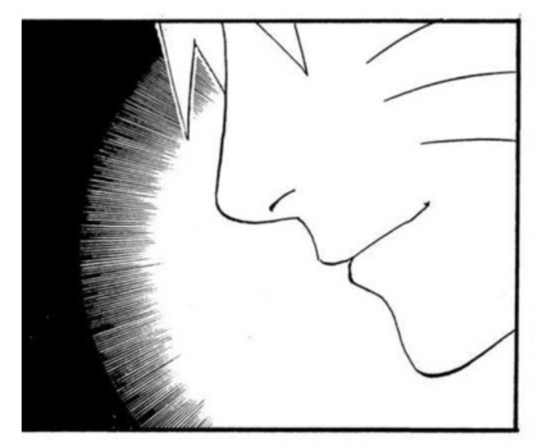

READ THIS WAY

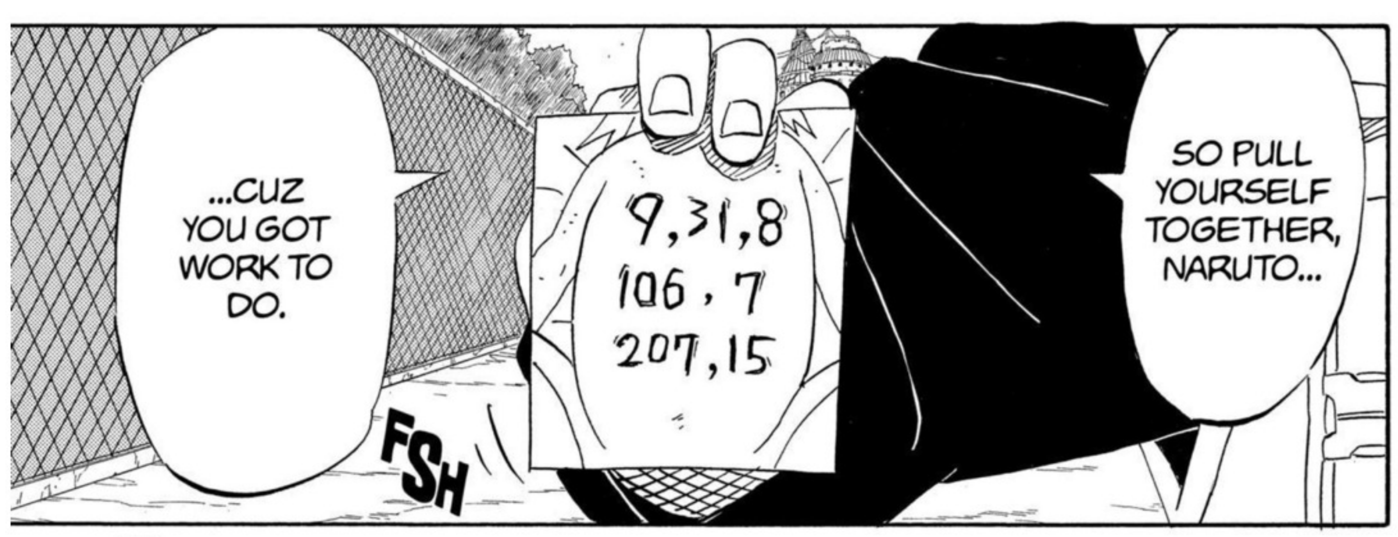

YOU WILL EVENTUALLY BE THE ONE PAYING FOR THE RAMEN...
...AND BE CALLED MASTER NARUTO OR SOME SUCH.


WE CAN'T STAY SNOT-NOSED BRATS FOREVER.

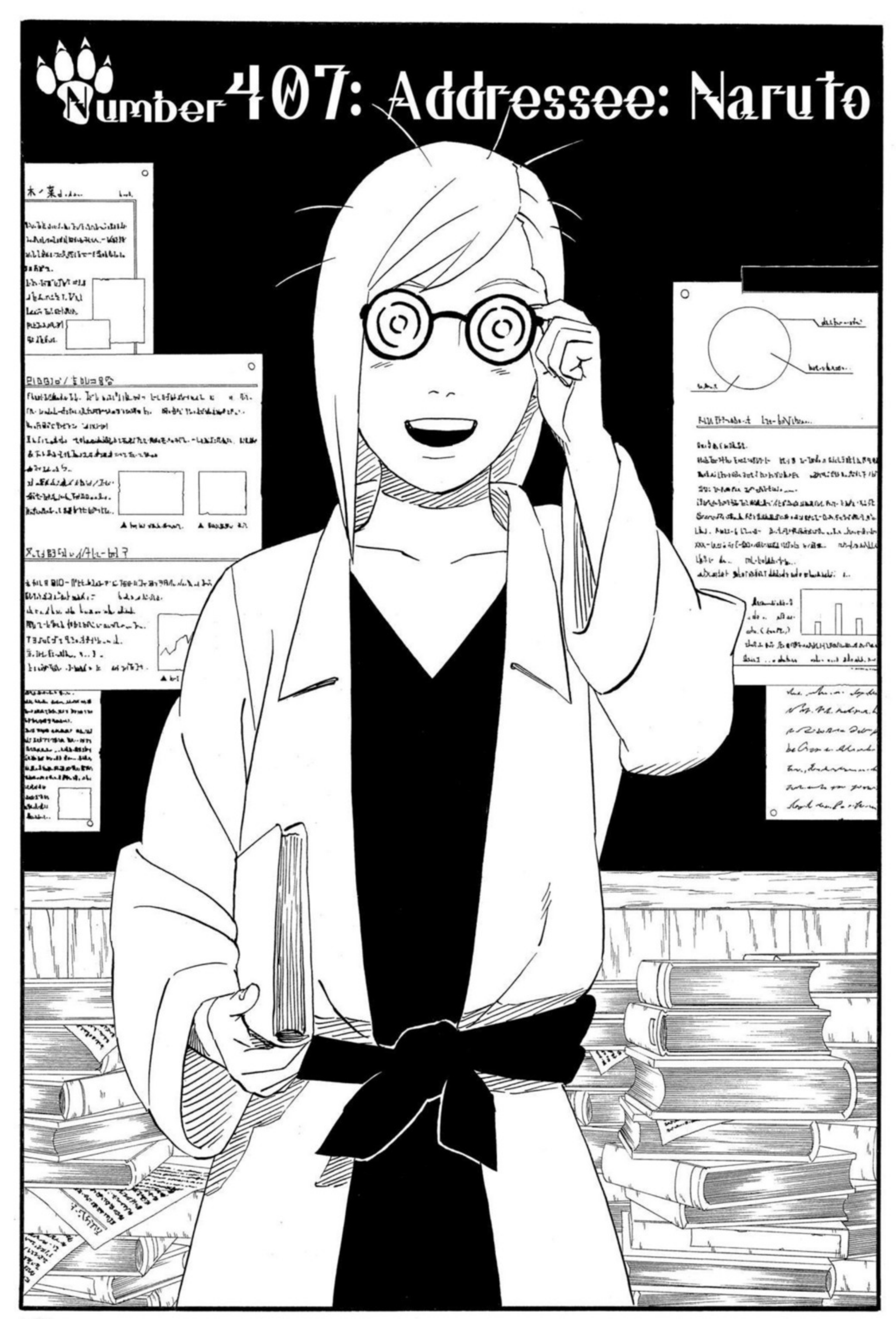

IF WE WANNA BECOME ULTRA-COOL SHINOBI...
...LIKE ASUMA AND LORD JIRAIYA, THAT IS.
TINK


油




SO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, NARUTO...
9,31,8
106, 7
207,15
...CUZ YOU GOT WORK TO DO.
FSH

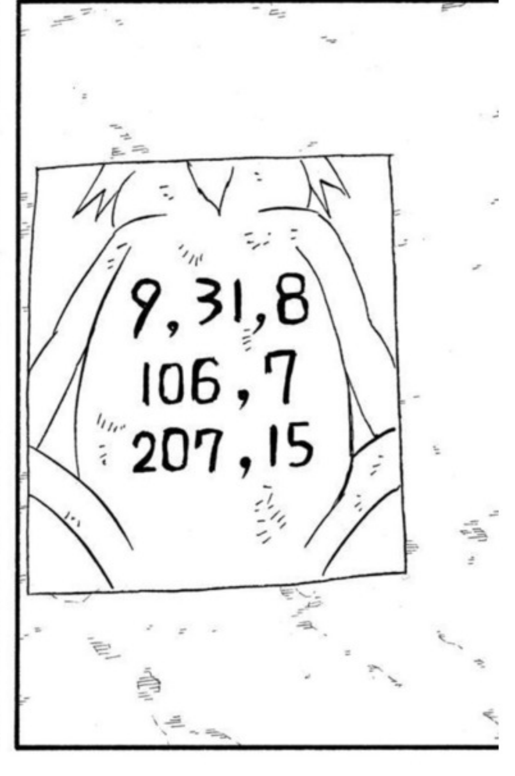

NARUTO


Number 407: Addressee: Naruto



(Cipher Corps)









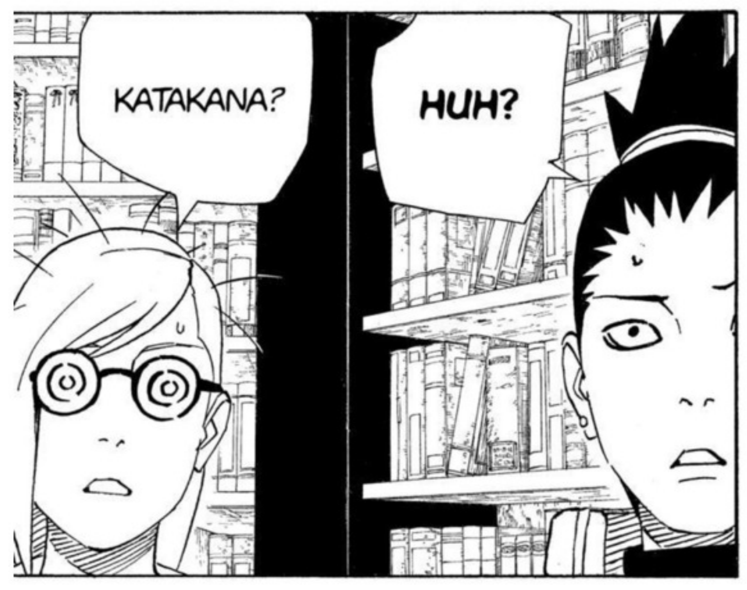



READ THIS WAY


THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING THERE.
PLEASE JUST SAY ANYTHING THAT COMES TO YOUR MIND...
WE'RE NOT ASKING YOU TO INSTANTLY DECODE THE MESSAGE.


THERE IS ONE THING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME SINCE THE BEGINNING...
WHAT IS IT?


WHY AMONG ALL THESE NUMBERS...
...IS THERE A SINGLE KATAKANA LETTER?


HUH?
KATAKANA?

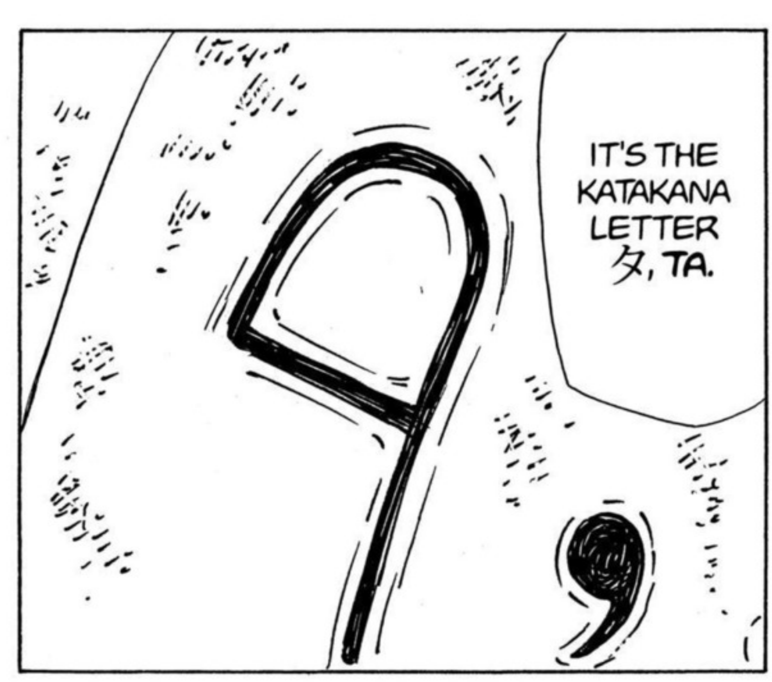

WHERE?!
KLATTER


SEE, RIGHT HERE.

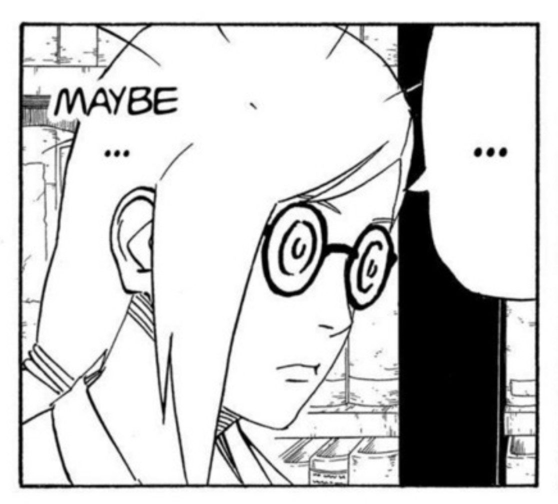

9,31,8


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S THE NUMBER NINE, ISN'T IT?


THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST TOO...
...BUT IT'S **NOT** THE NUMBER NINE.


IT'S THE KATAKANA LETTER タ, **TA.**

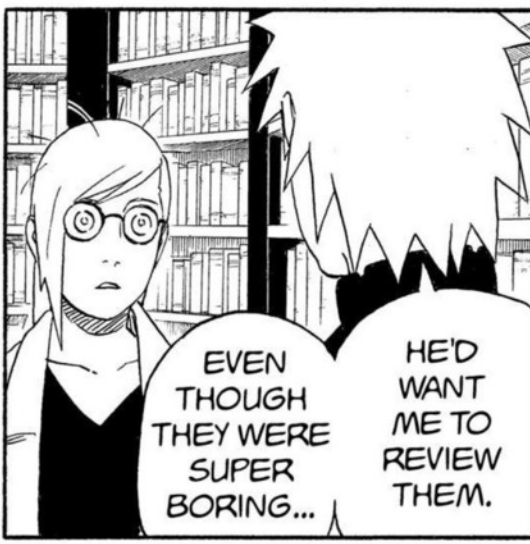

HUH...
HMM... NOW I KINDA SEE IT, BUT IT'S STILL A STRETCH.


...
MAYBE ...

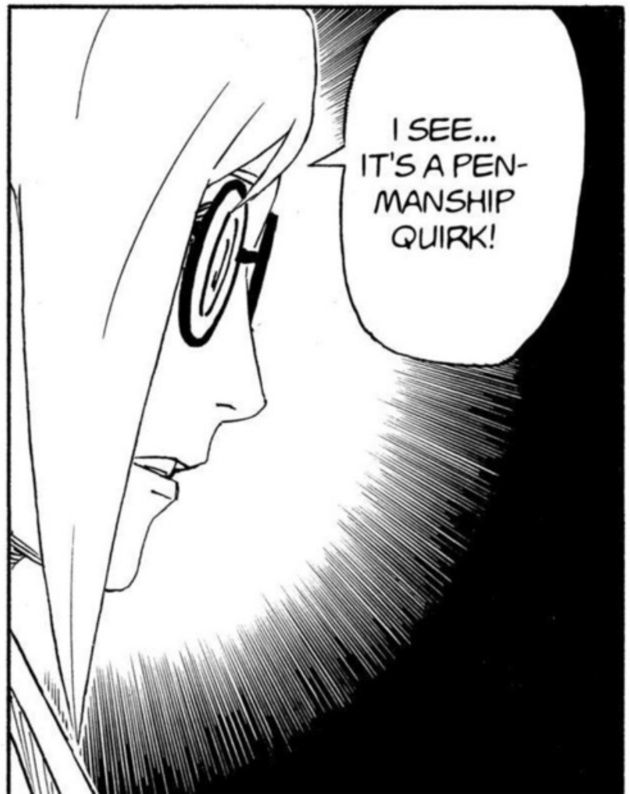

READ
THIS
WAY

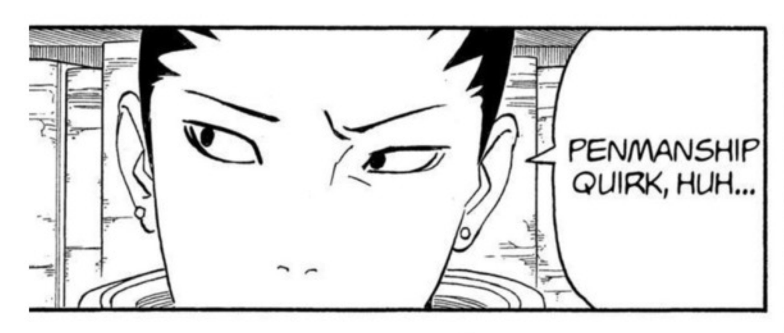

NARUTO ...
...WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THIS NINE IS THE LETTER 夕?

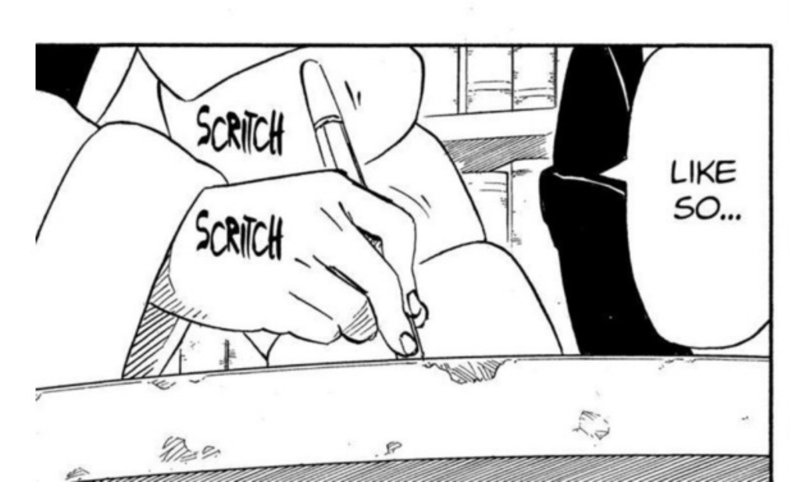

WELL, THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE TRAINING, PERVY SAGE WAS WRITING A BOOK...
...I MEAN, HE IS AN AUTHOR.
AND SINCE I WAS TRAVELING WITH HIM, HE WOULD ALWAYS MAKE ME READ HIS HANDWRITTEN DRAFTS.

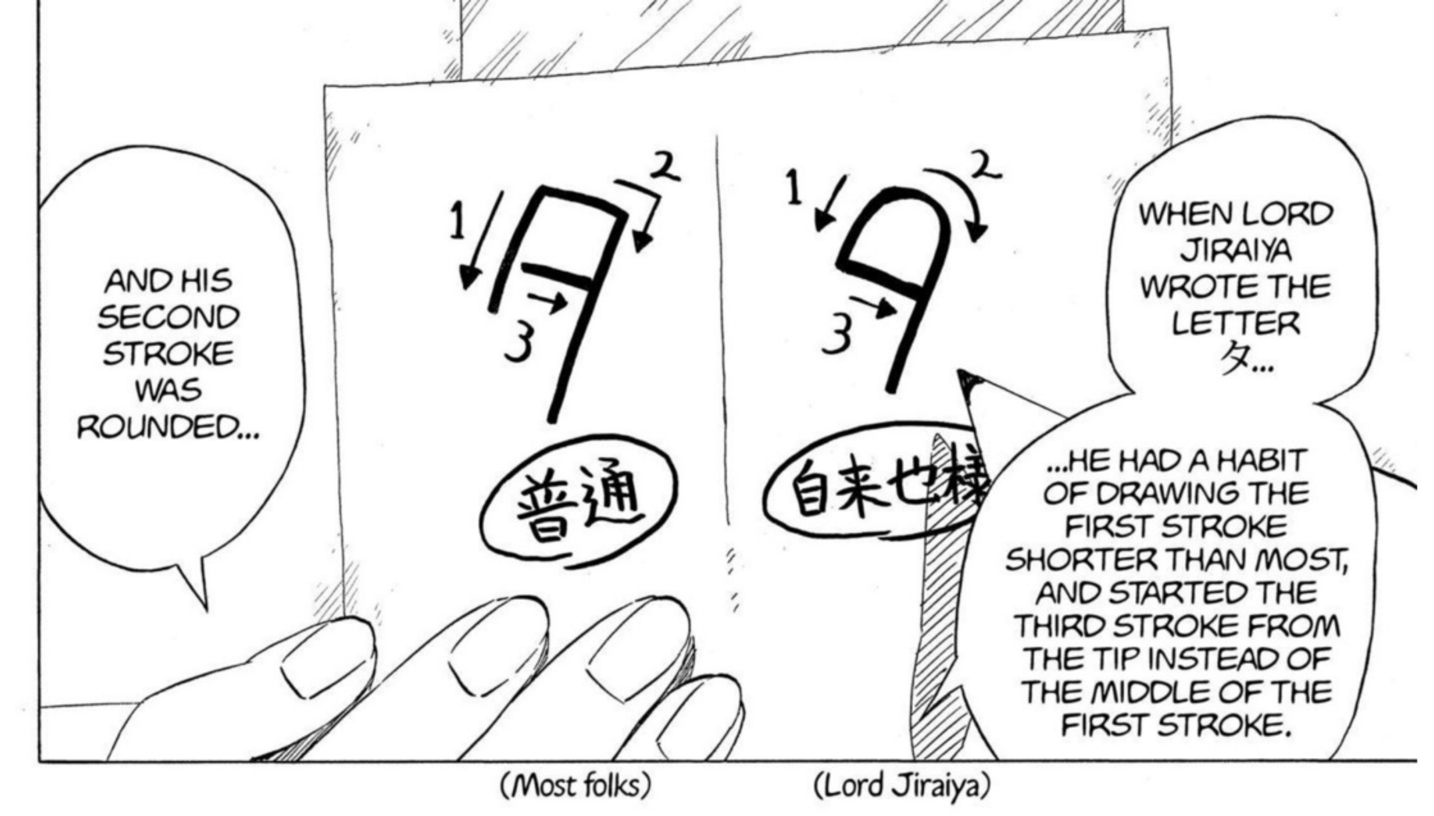

HE'D WANT ME TO REVIEW THEM.
EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE SUPER BORING...


ANYWAY, EACH TIME HE USED 夕, I'D STUMBLE OVER THE WORD.
...CUZ IT'D LOOK LIKE THE NUMBER NINE...
...THAT'S WHAT MADE ME THINK OF IT.

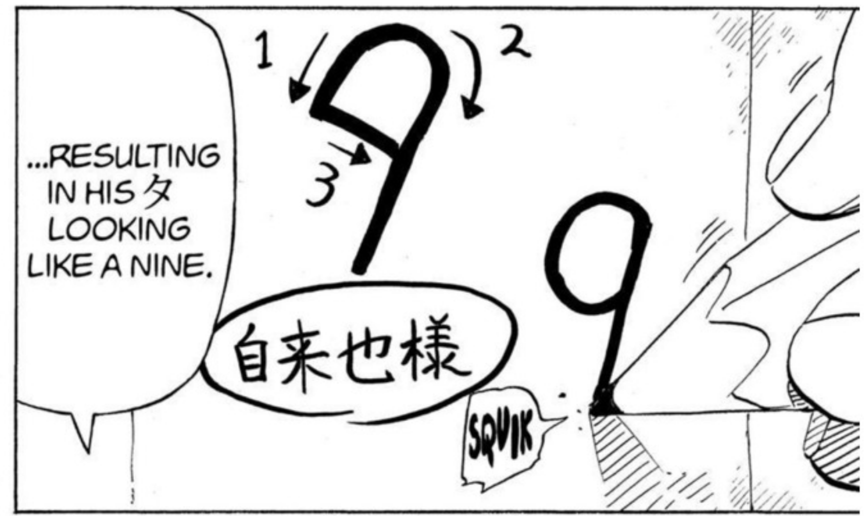

I SEE... IT'S A PEN-MANSHIP QUIRK!

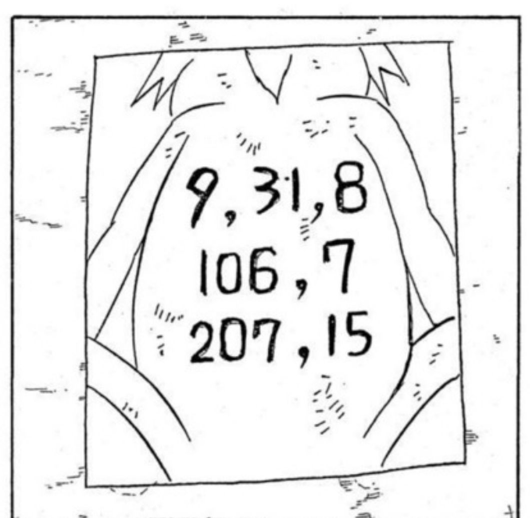

PENMANSHIP QUIRK, HUH...

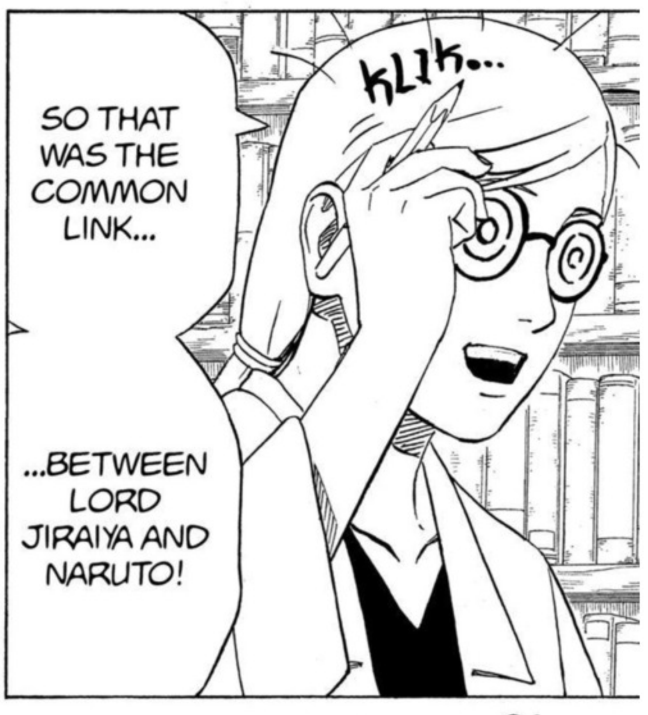

LIKE SO...
SCRITCH
SCRITCH



(Most folks) (Lord Jiraiya)







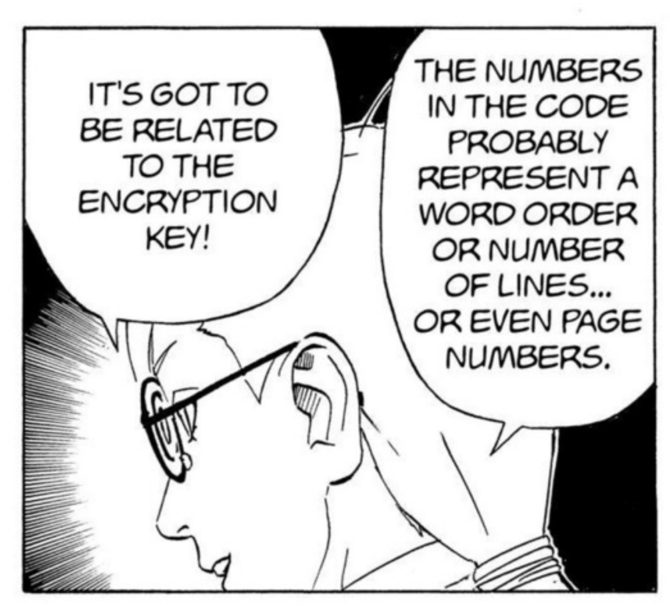



READ THIS WAY


...


NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
IT'S GOT TO BE THAT BOOK YOU MENTIONED, OR SOME SUCH!


TH-THAT'S RIGHT, SHIKA-MARU!
I BELIEVE MORE CLUES MUST BE HIDDEN INSIDE LORD JIRAIYA'S BOOKS TOO!


THE NUMBERS IN THE CODE PROBABLY REPRESENT A WORD ORDER OR NUMBER OF LINES... OR EVEN PAGE NUMBERS.
IT'S GOT TO BE RELATED TO THE ENCRYPTION KEY!


NARUTO, CAN YOU THINK OF ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LETTER TA AND LORD JIRAIYA'S BOOKS?
UH... UMM...


OH...!
OKAY, HOW MANY BOOKS DID LORD JIRAIYA PUBLISH?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I THINK FOUR OR FIVE...?


THEN LET'S JUST CHECK ALL OF THEM.


SHOOF
MAKE-OUT TACTICS
I THINK IT'S THIS ONE.

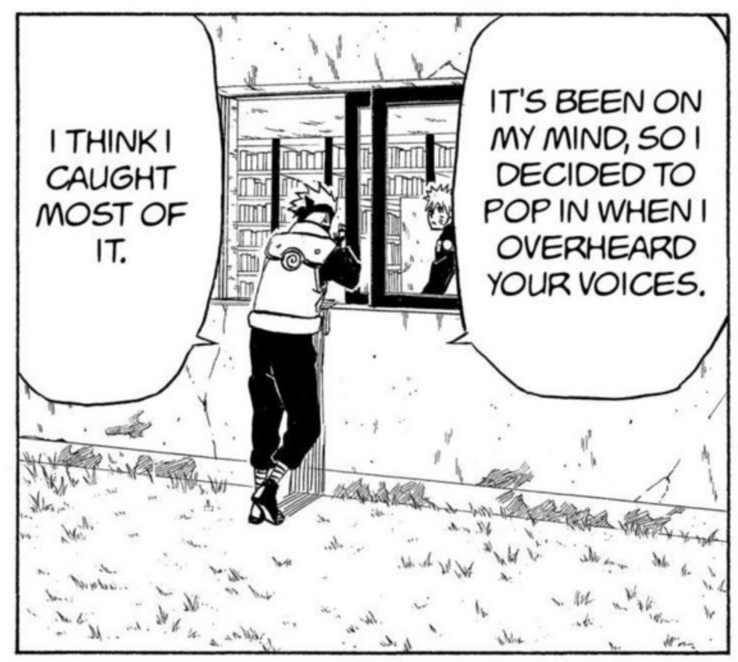

MAKE-OUT TACTICS


TAC


MAKE-OUT TACTICS...


TA FOR TACTICS!
MASTER KAKASHI!

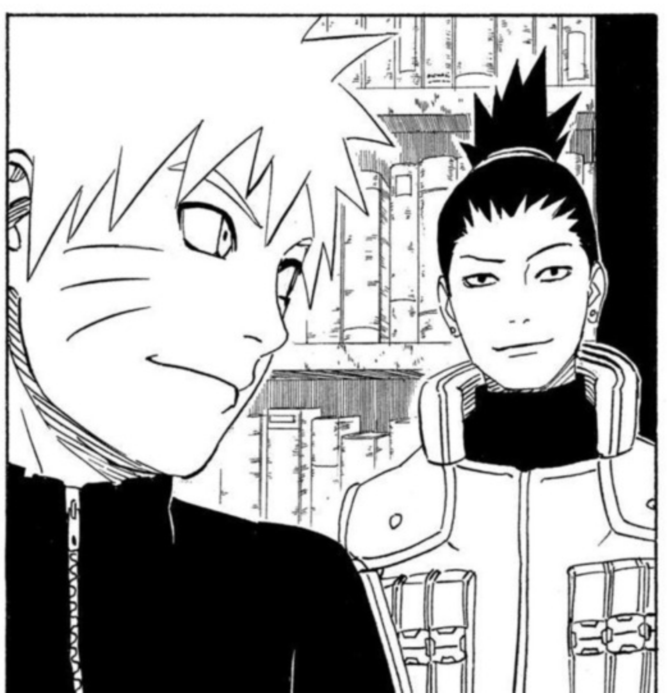

READ
THIS
WAY

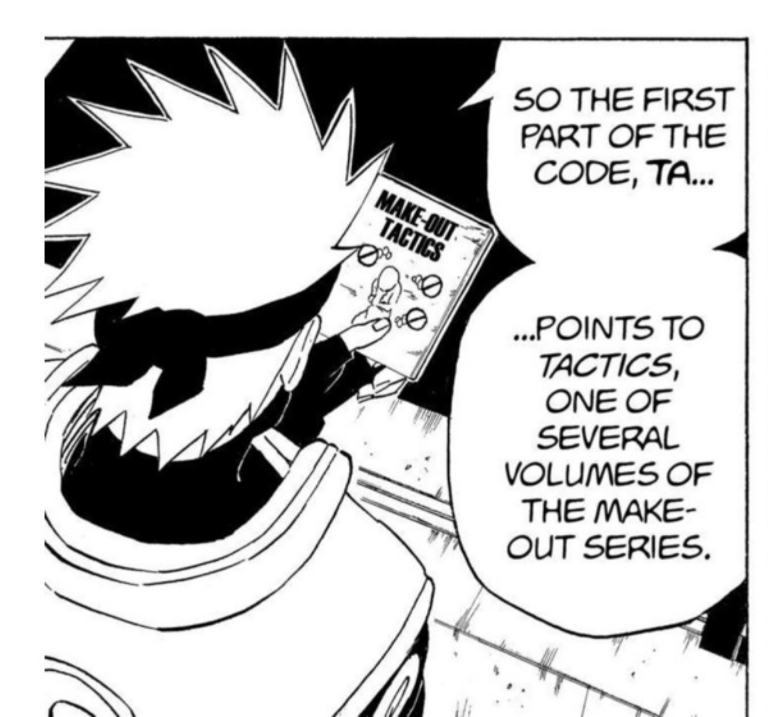

IT'S BEEN ON MY MIND, SO I DECIDED TO POP IN WHEN I OVERHEARD YOUR VOICES.
I THINK I CAUGHT MOST OF IT.


MAKE-OUT TACTICS

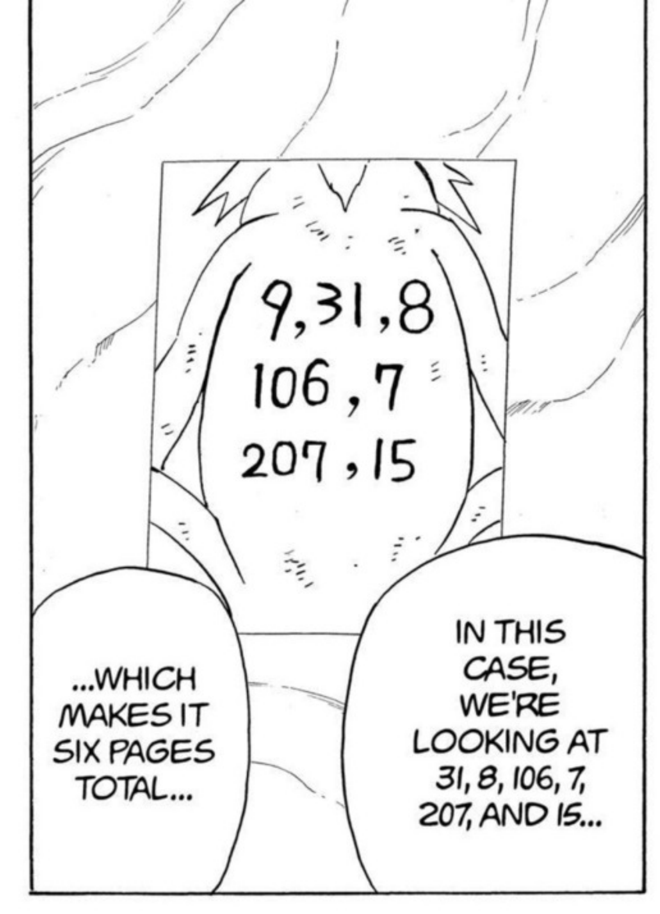

THAT'S...
...THE SAME BOOK PERVY SAGE WAS WORKING ON DURING OUR TRAINING!


IT'S SOME-THING ONLY NARUTO WOULD HAVE KNOWN.
JUST AS I THOUGHT, LORD JIRAIYA **DID** PASS ON THE KEY TO NARUTO.




SO THE FIRST PART OF THE CODE, **TA**...
...POINTS TO *TACTICS*, ONE OF SEVERAL VOLUMES OF THE MAKE-OUT SERIES.
MAKE-OUT TACTICS

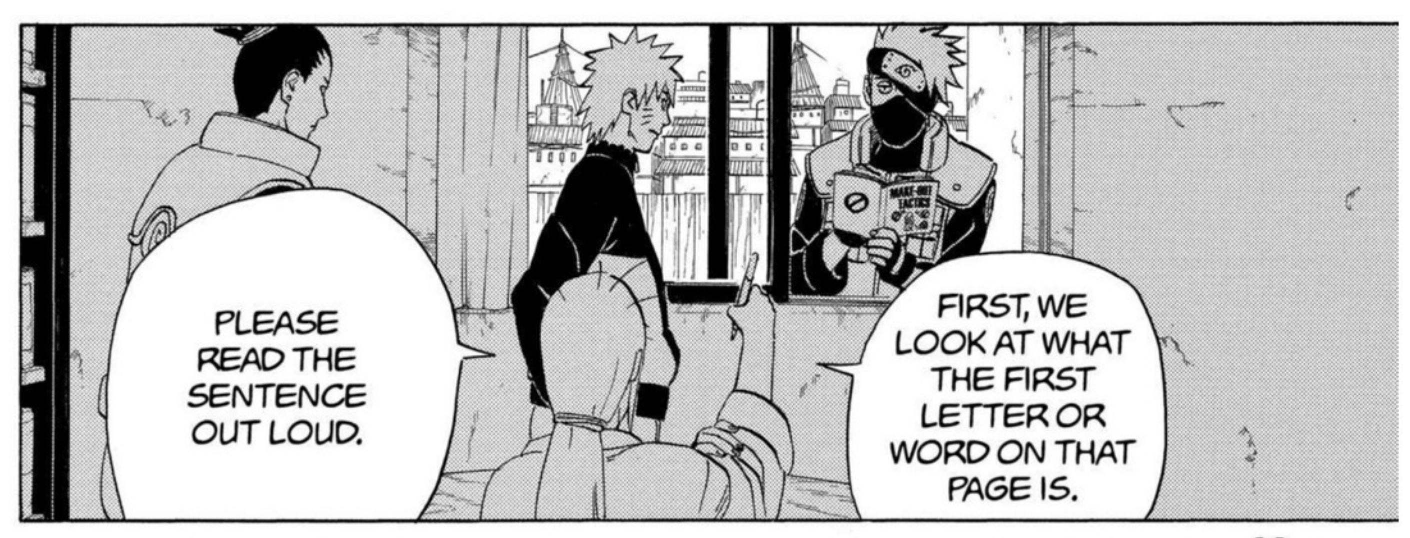

WE CAN LOOK AT WORD AND LINE ORDER, BUT WHEN A CODE INVOLVES A BOOK...
...THE FIRST LINE OF INVESTIGATION IS ALWAYS PAGE NUMBERS.


9,31,8
106,7
207,15
IN THIS CASE, WE'RE LOOKING AT 31, 8, 106, 7, 207, AND 15...
...WHICH MAKES IT SIX PAGES TOTAL...


LET'S START WITH PAGE 31.
FLIP TO THAT PAGE, PLEASE.

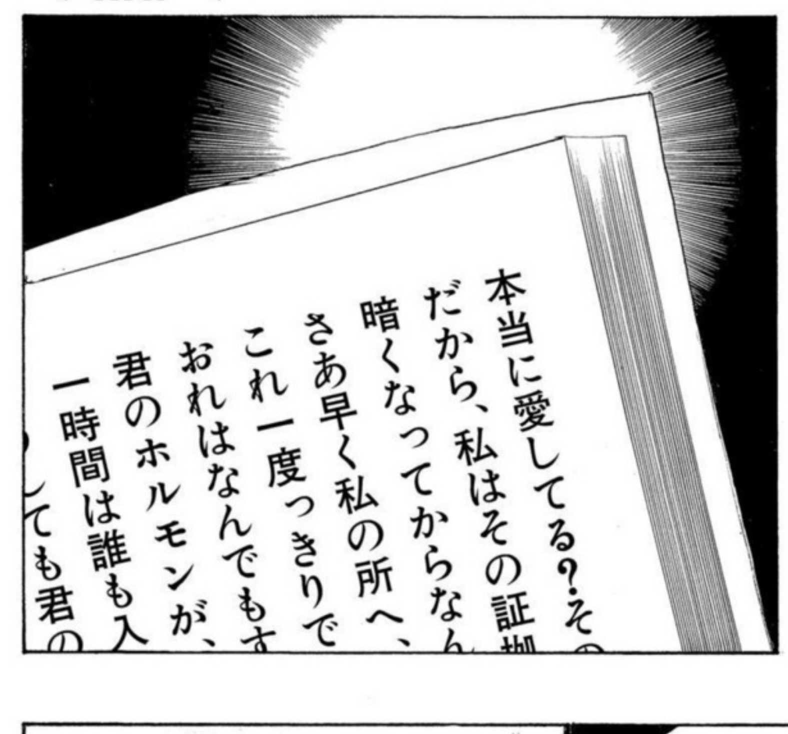

PAGE 31, RIGHT?
FRRLLP FRRLLP
MAKE-OUT TACTICS


HERE WE GO.
NOW WHAT?

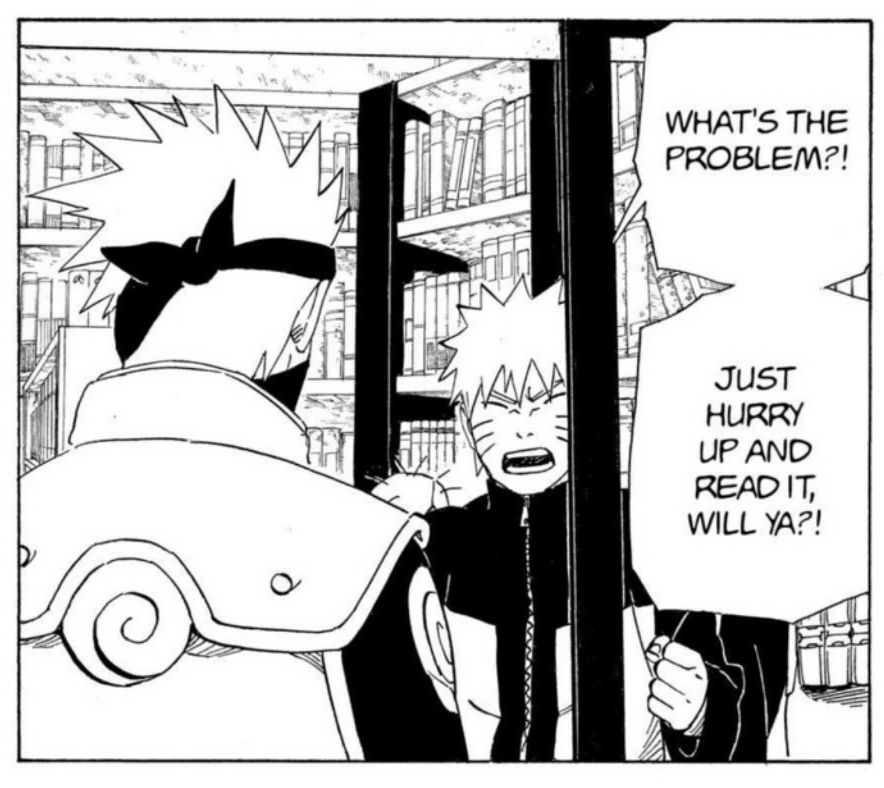

FIRST, WE LOOK AT WHAT THE FIRST LETTER OR WORD ON THAT PAGE IS.
PLEASE READ THE SENTENCE OUT LOUD.

READ THIS WAY













P31 本当に愛してる　持ち、

P8 物々交換と同じだ、それでも君、

P106 葉が邪魔だな……もう君という

P7 意外に大きいのね、アナタのそ

P207 無理そんなの……それじゃ私の

P15 椅子がギシギシと音を立て、い













SCRITCH

P31 本当に愛してる？アナタ

P8 物々交換と同じだ、それでも

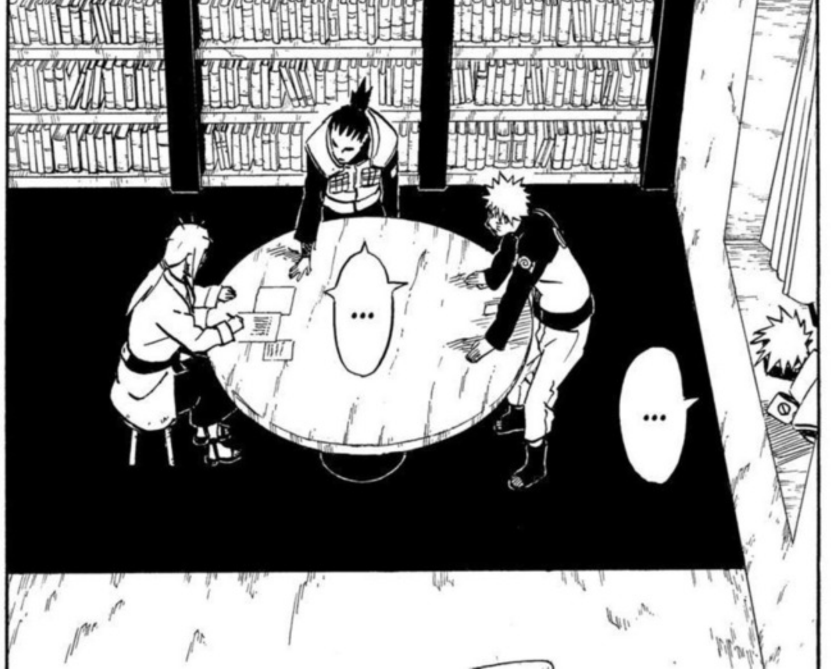
P106 葉が邪魔だな…もう君と

P7 意外に大きいのね、アナ

P207 無理そんなの… それ

P15 椅子がギシギシと音

...GIVES US **HON-MONO-WA-I-NA-I...** "THE REAL ONE'S NOT AMONG THEM."

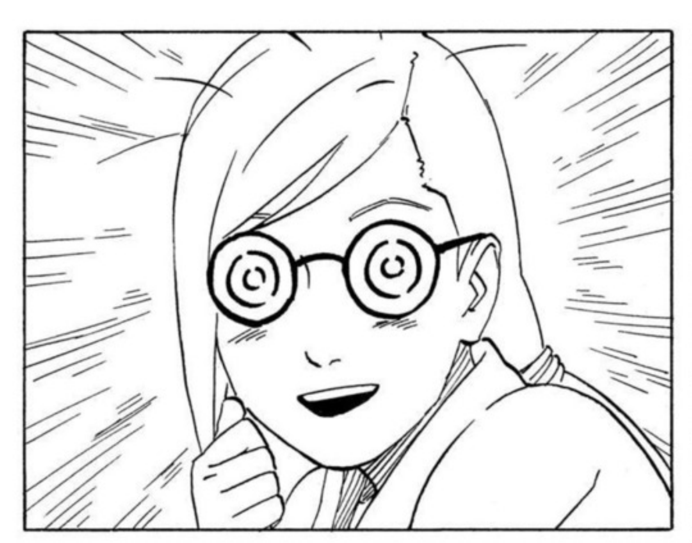





WE OUGHT TO RELAY THIS TO LORD FUKASAKU RIGHT AWAY.
PERHAPS IT WILL MEAN SOMETHING TO HIM, SINCE HE FOUGHT PAIN TOO.

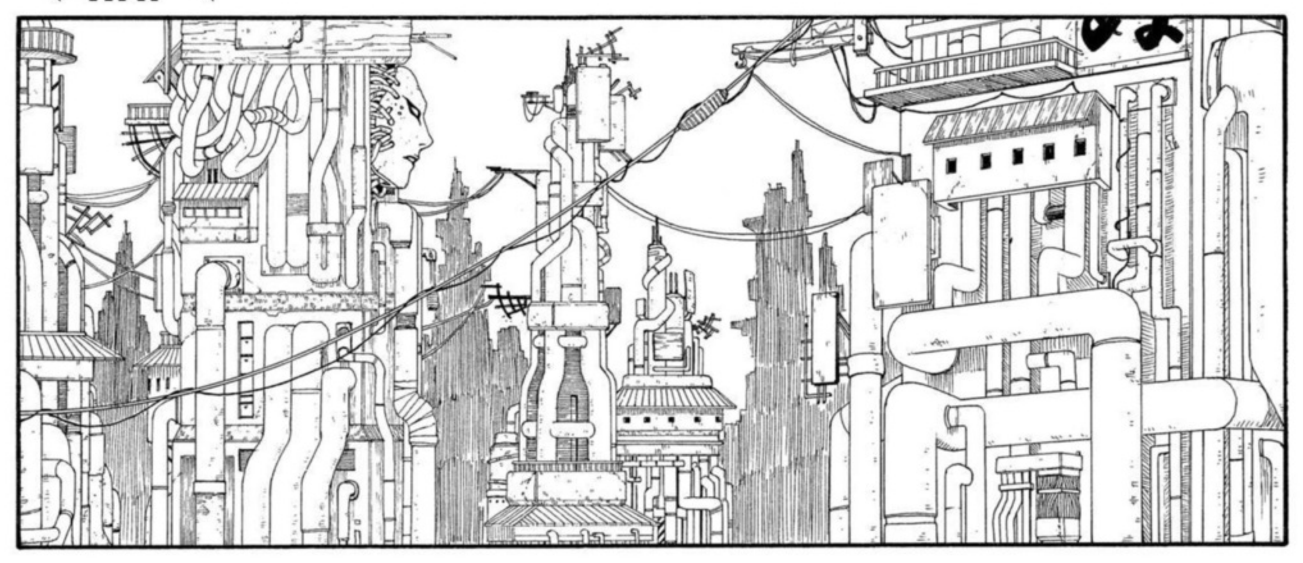

SO WE ASK LADY FIFTH TO SUMMON THIS LORD FUKASAKU, RIGHT?

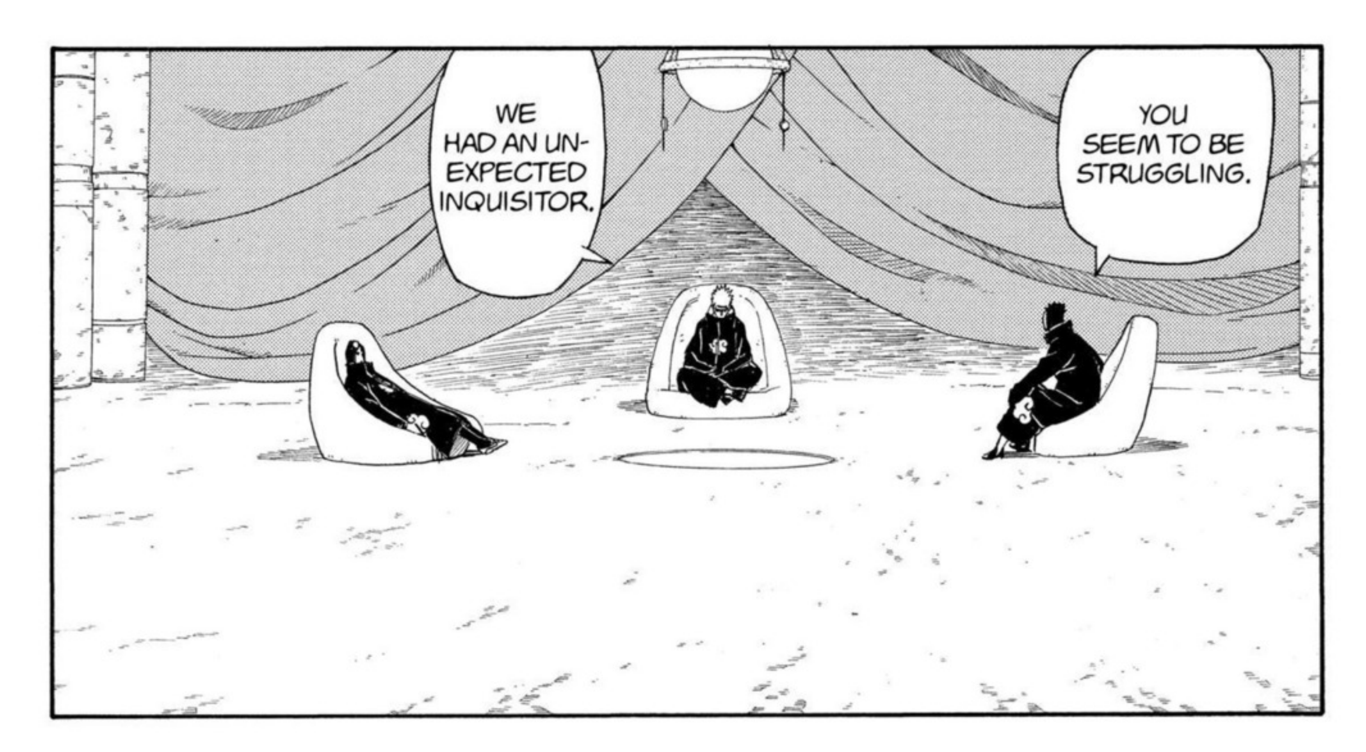

MAY I COME ALONG TOO?
KATOK
SURE, THAT'D BE GREAT, SHIHO.




ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO LET GRANNY KNOW!


READ THIS WAY



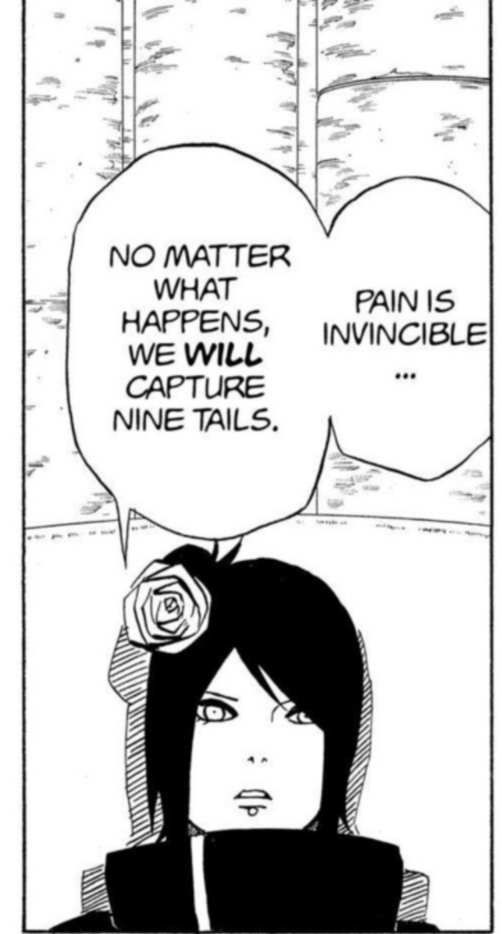

YOU SEEM TO BE STRUGGLING.
WE HAD AN UN-EXPECTED INQUISITOR.


FOR UNSTOPPABLE, ALL-KNOWING PAIN TO HAVE HAD THEIR HANDS FULL...
...MEANS JIRAIYA MUST HAVE LIVED UP TO HIS REPUTA-TION.


BUT WE TOOK CARE OF HIM.
WE CAN GO RIGHT NOW TO HUNT DOWN NINE TAILS.


FSH

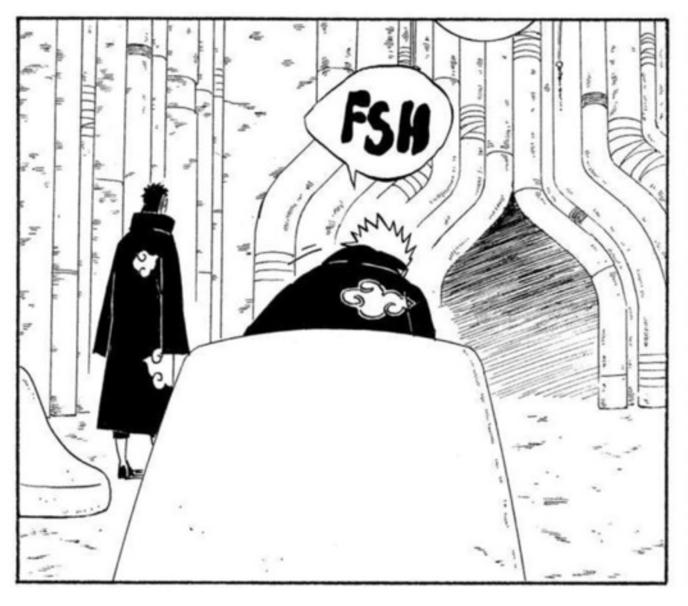

BECAUSE YOU VANQUISHED JIRAIYA, KONOHA WILL SET THEIR EYES ON YOU.
SHUP...
THE MORE TIME PASSES, THE MORE LIKELY THEY'LL SET SOME PLAN IN MOTION...
...SO GO NOW, BEFORE IT BECOMES DIFFICULT.


PAIN IS INVINCIBLE ...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE **WILL** CAPTURE NINE TAILS.

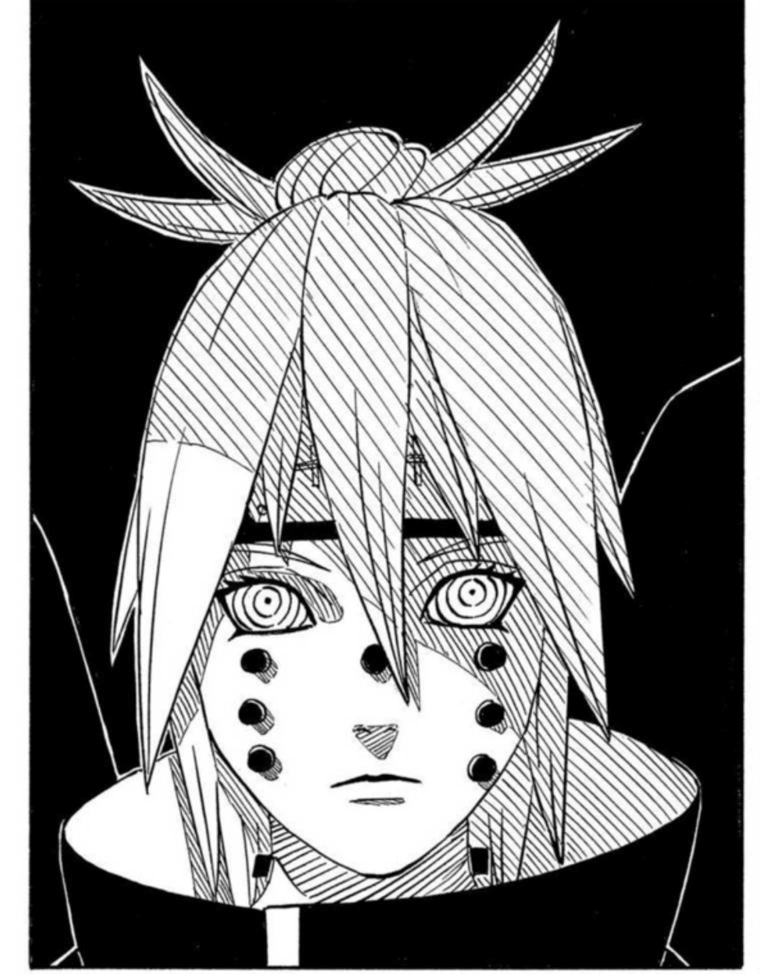

...THERE ARE ONLY TWO TAILED BEASTS LEFT.
I HAVE SENT SASUKE AFTER EIGHT TAILS.


ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?


I WILL VOUCH FOR SASUKE.

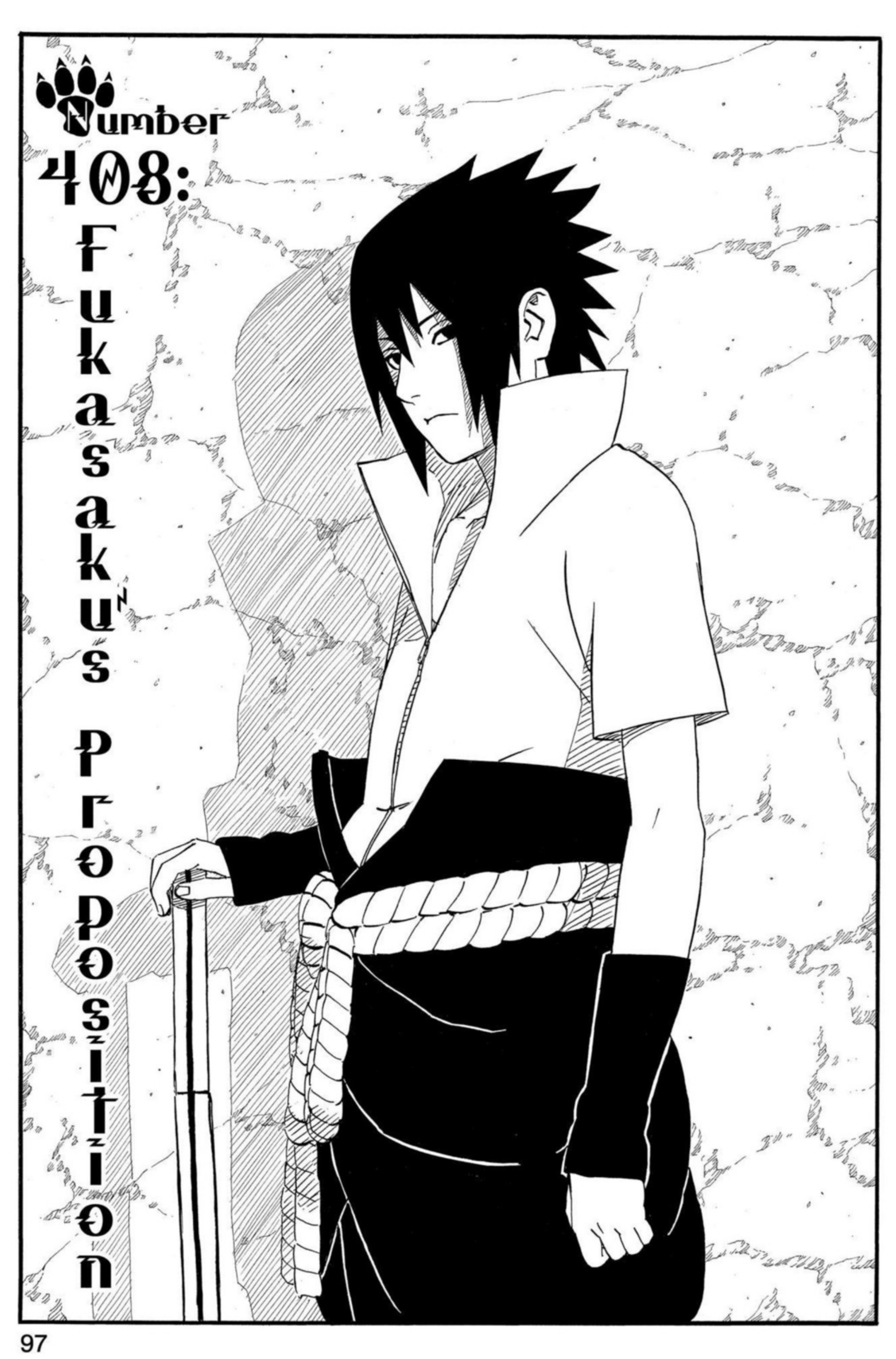

FSH





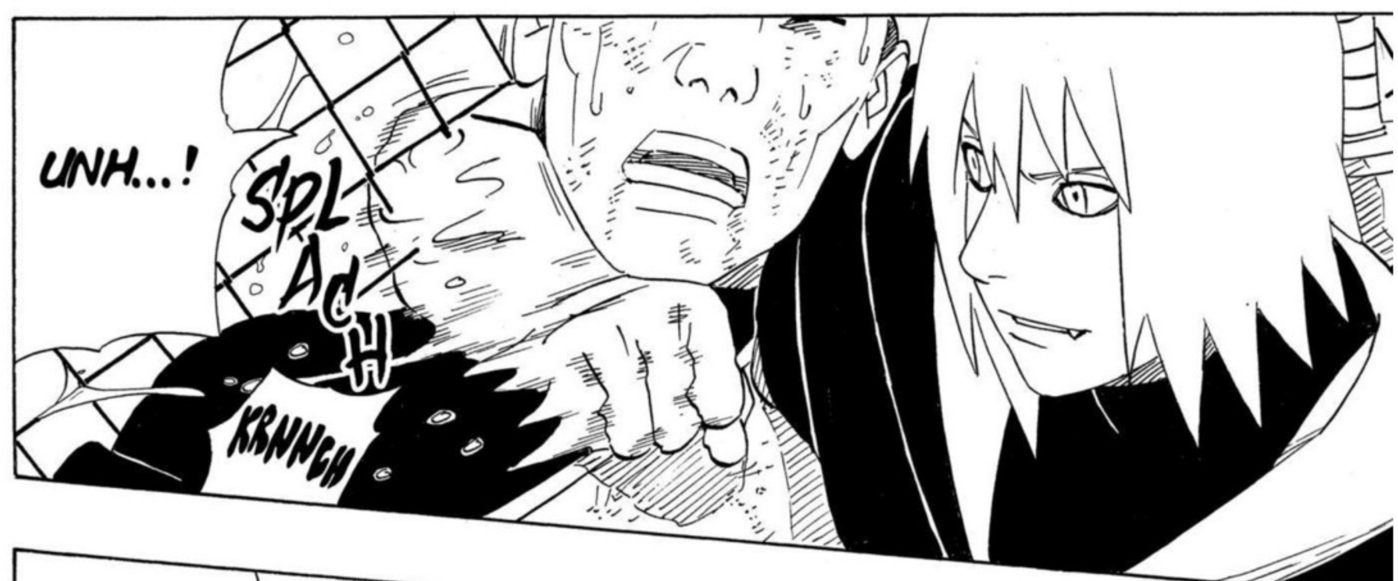
...WE'RE HEADING OUT TO KONOHA.

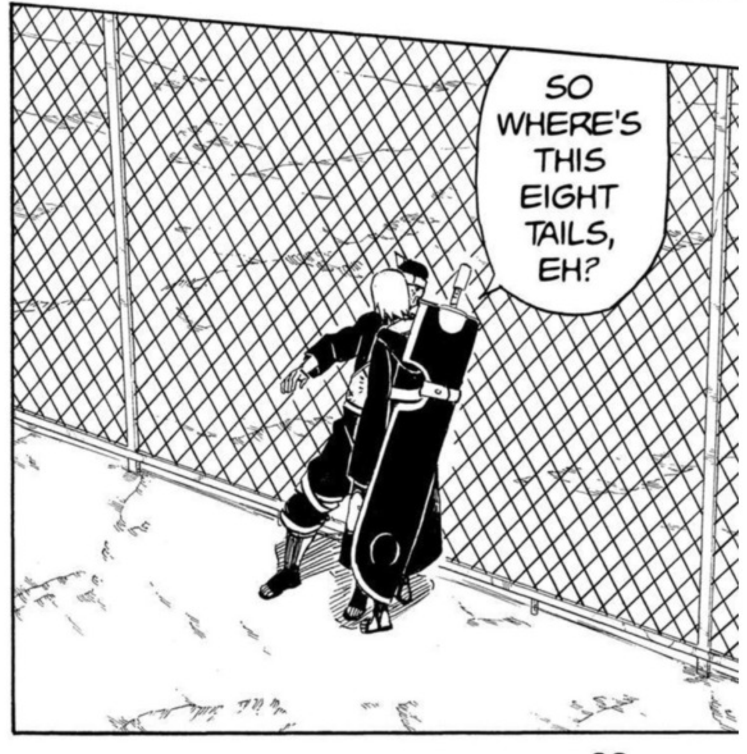

MAKE-OUT
TACTICS


Number
408:
Fukasaku's Proposition


ZWOP
?!


KASHING
UGH!!


UNH...!
SPLACH
KRNNCH

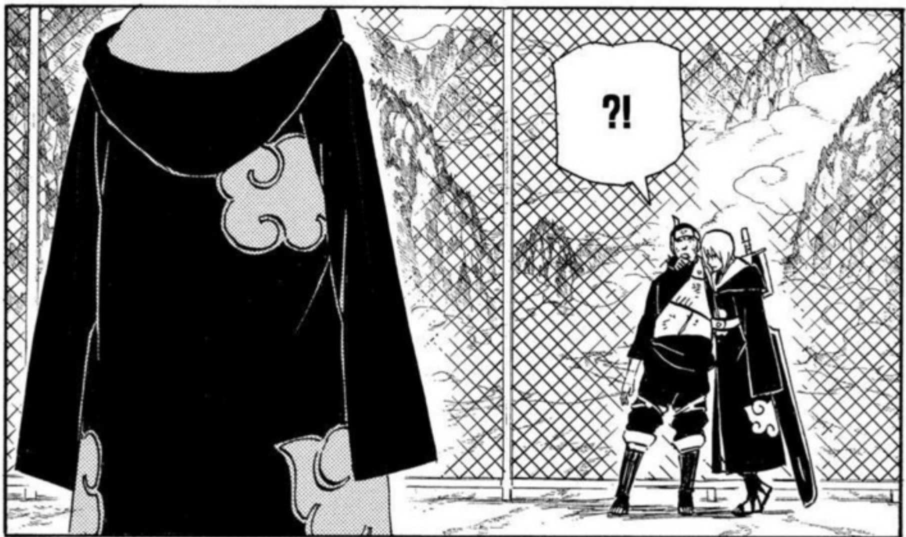

SO WHERE'S THIS EIGHT TAILS, EH?


DON'T YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE OUR CLAN ...
WE'RE NOT GOING TO TELL THE LIKES OF YOU... ANYTHING...!


SNNUUGH
UGH !!

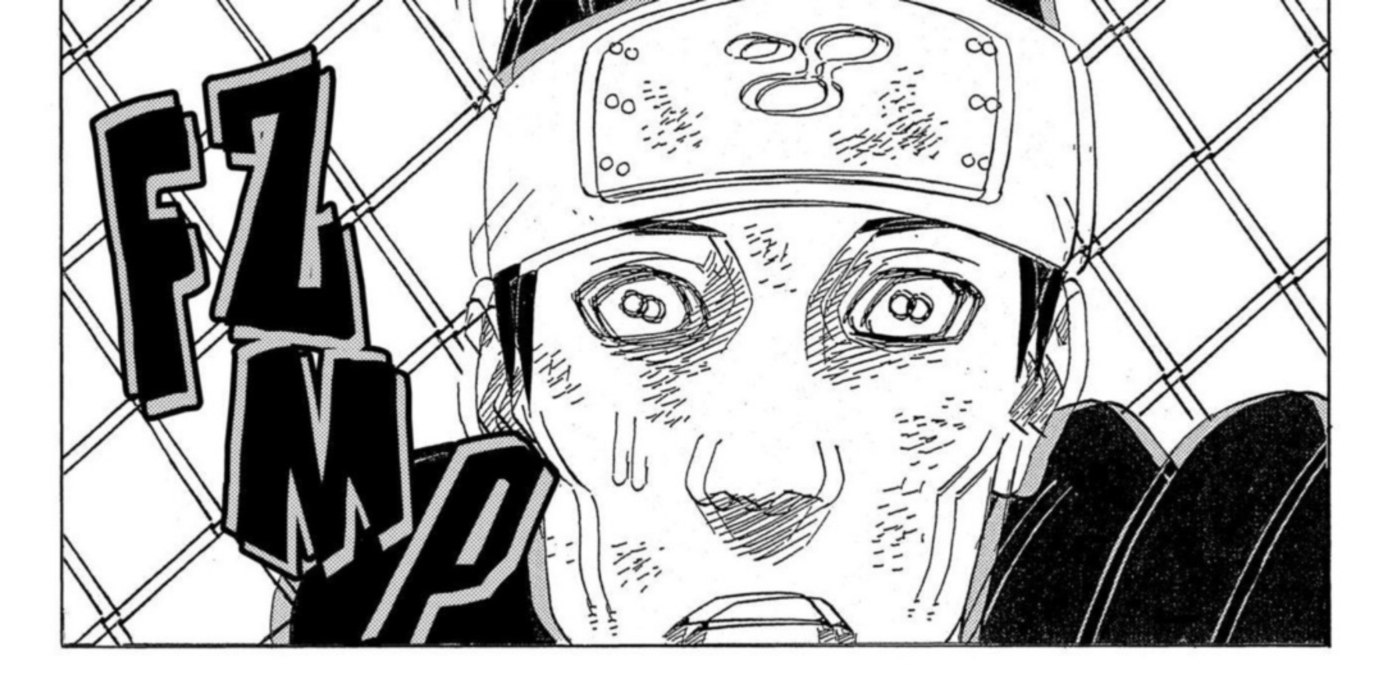

READ
THIS
WAY


WE OF THE YOTSUKI CLAN...WILL NEVER BETRAY ONE OF OUR OWN!
THAT'S ...
A FEARFUL HEART IS MORE LIKELY TO CRACK.
KRUNCH


?!

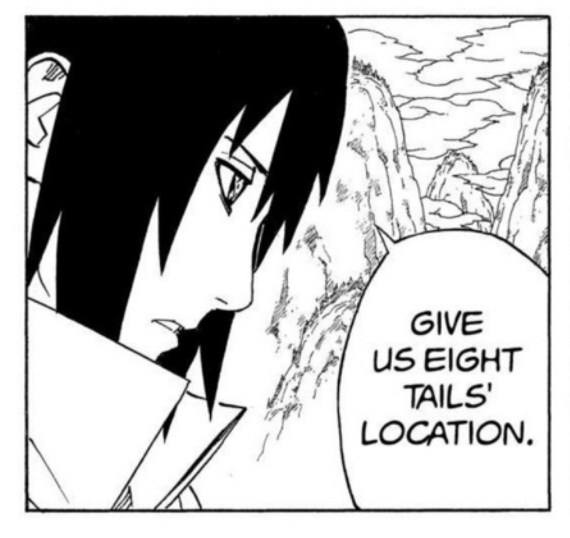



SHKEEN



LET UP, SUIGETSU. HE'S UNDER SASUKE'S GENJUTSU NOW.






READ THIS WAY

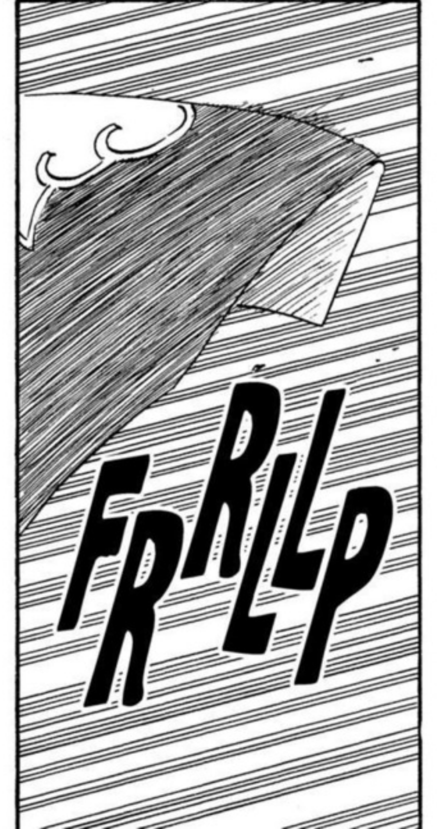

HE'S TRAINING ...
...IN STORM CLOUD... RAVINE.


ANY DISTIN-GUISHING FEATURES ?


...HE WIELDS... EIGHT BLADES...
...HAS THE WORD STEEL (鉄) TATTOOED ON HIS RIGHT SHOULDER... AND BULL HORNS TATTOOED... ON HIS LEFT CHEEK...
WRRBLE
KLUNK


THUD




FRRLLP

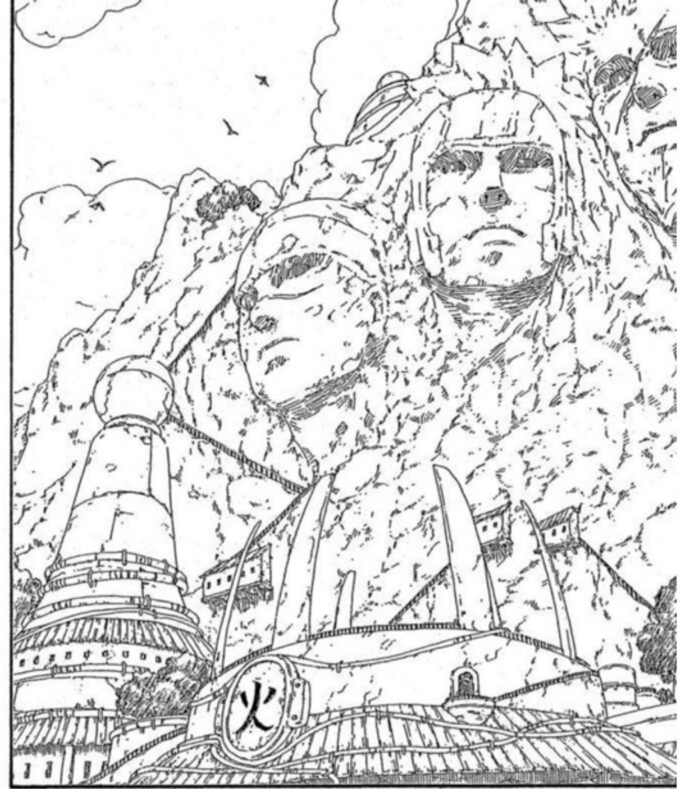
LET'S GO.




THOSE EYES OF HIS HAVE IMPROVED, MAKING HIM EVEN MORE ANNOYING.

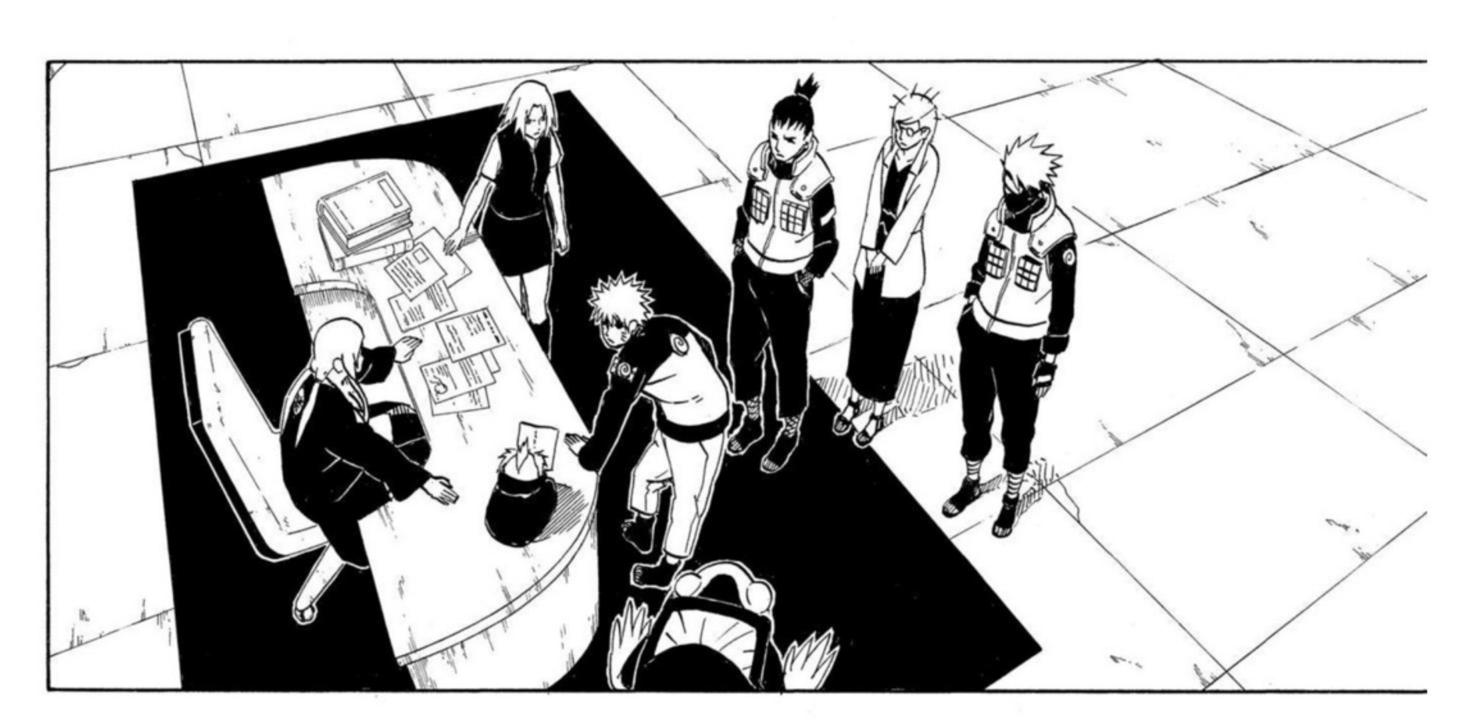

MY MY... SASUKE'S GOTTEN EVEN COOLER.♡
TEE HEE ...

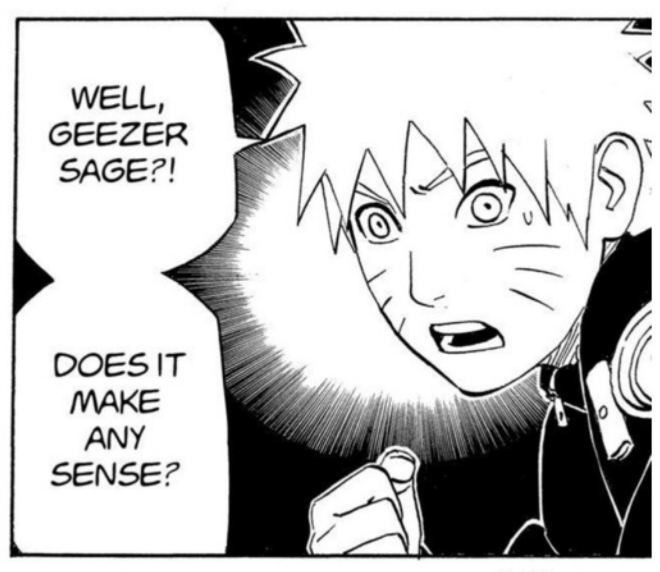

I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP MYSELF UNDER CONTROL IN THIS PLACE. I FEEL SO CALM HERE.





本物葉竟無椅
THE-REAL-ONE'S-NOT-AMONG-'EM...HUH.

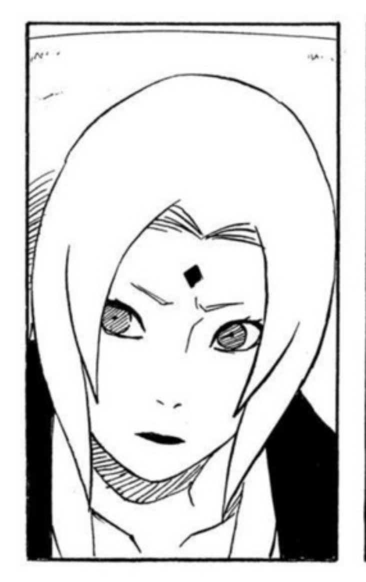




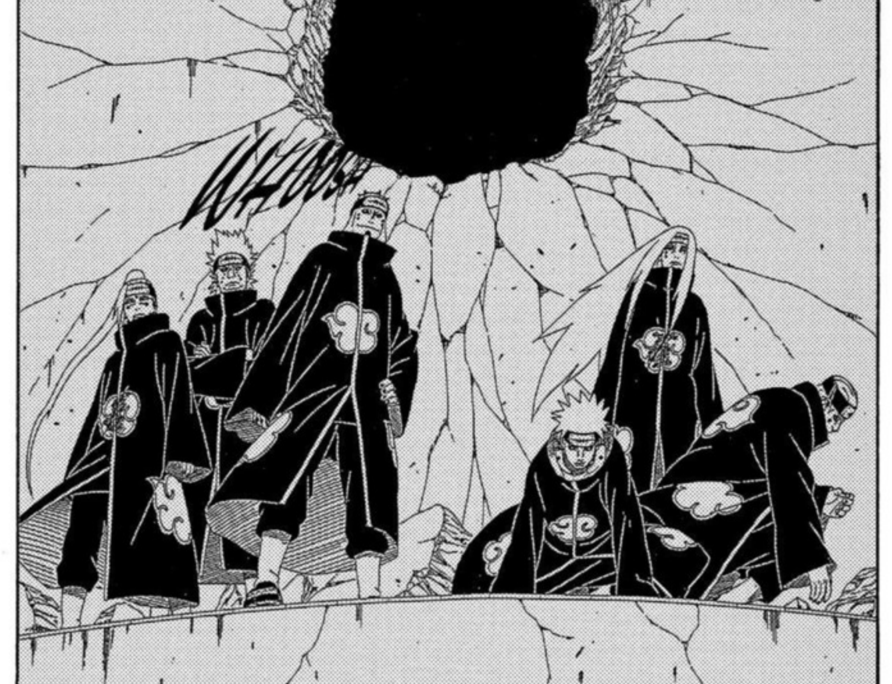
WELL, GEEZER SAGE?!
DOES IT MAKE ANY SENSE?



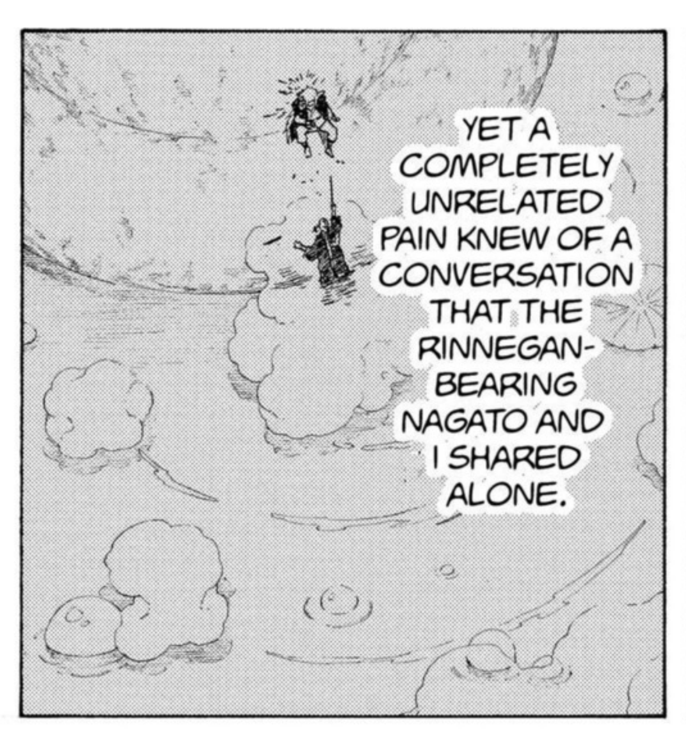
...

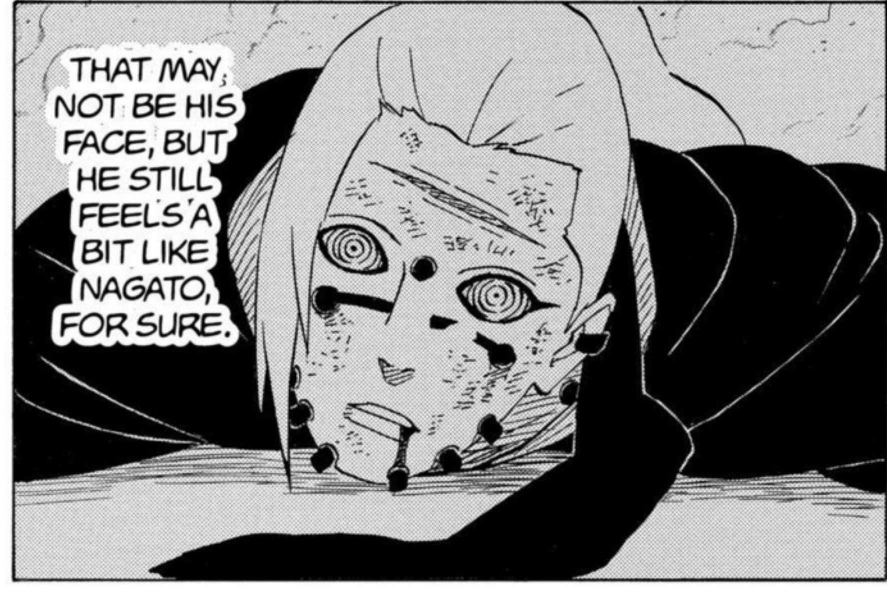



...


WHOOSH


ACTUALLY, NONE OF THOSE SIX REMIND ME OF NAGATO.

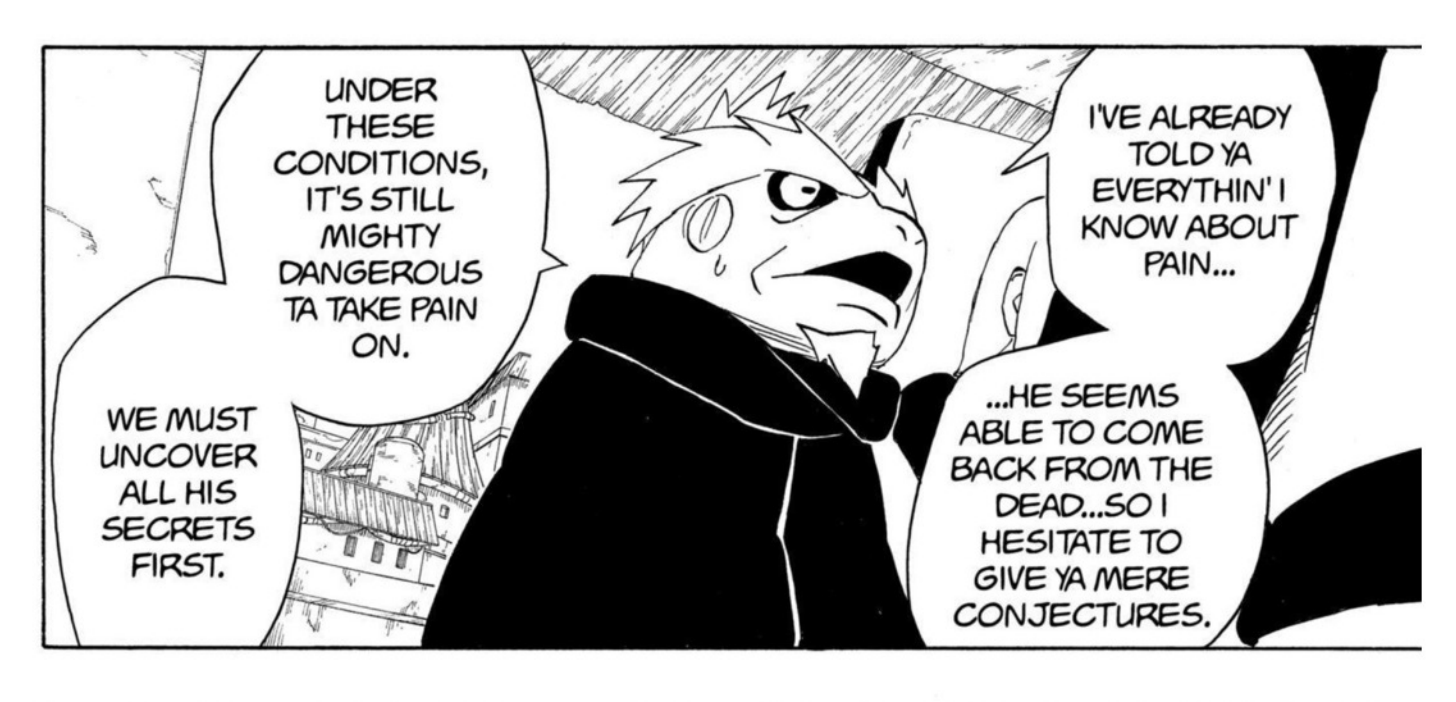

YET A COMPLETELY UNRELATED PAIN KNEW OF A CONVERSATION THAT THE RINNEGAN-BEARING NAGATO AND I SHARED ALONE.


THAT MAY NOT BE HIS FACE, BUT HE STILL FEELS A BIT LIKE NAGATO, FOR SURE.




I'M NOT SURE...
IT'S STILL TOO UNCLEAR.


SO...
...YOU DO HAVE SOME HYPOTHESES, THOUGH?


I'VE ALREADY TOLD YA EVERYTHIN' I KNOW ABOUT PAIN...
...HE SEEMS ABLE TO COME BACK FROM THE DEAD...SO I HESITATE TO GIVE YA MERE CONJECTURES.
UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, IT'S STILL MIGHTY DANGEROUS TA TAKE PAIN ON.
WE MUST UNCOVER ALL HIS SECRETS FIRST.


HOW ARE THE OTHER INVESTIGA-TIONS GOING?
THE AUTOPSY AND THE INTER-ROGATION ...

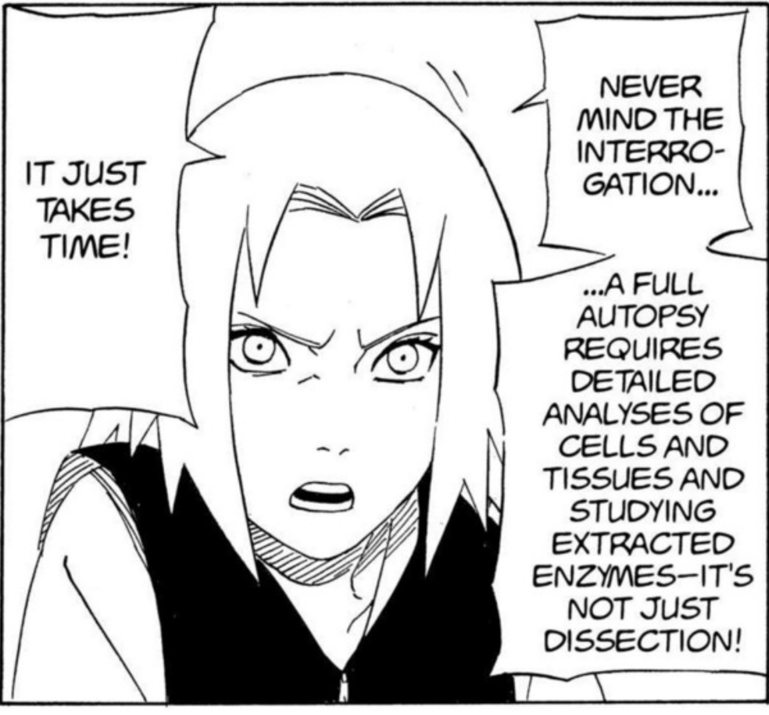

THEY'RE BOTH GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME YET.


HOW MUCH LONGER?


READ
THIS
WAY


I DON'T THINK THEY EVEN KNOW.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WHAT ARE THEY GOOFIN' AROUND FOR?! WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.


NEVER MIND THE INTERRO-GATION...
...A FULL AUTOPSY REQUIRES DETAILED ANALYSES OF CELLS AND TISSUES AND STUDYING EXTRACTED ENZYMES—IT'S NOT JUST DISSECTION!
IT JUST TAKES TIME!

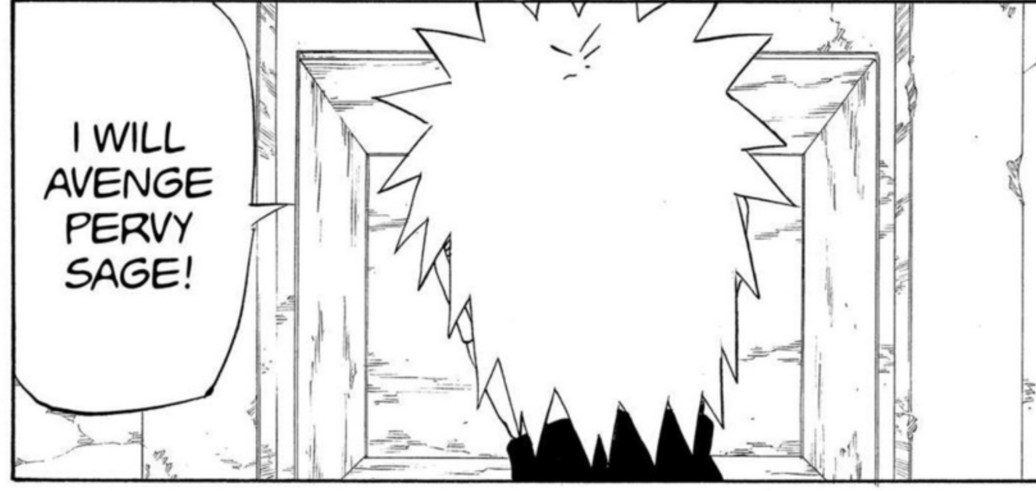

IT'LL BE A WEEK AT THE SOONEST.


THAT LONG...?
SHRVUMP
NOW NARUTO, DON'T GET SO GLUM.


SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO, LADY FIFTH...?


SHIZUNE'S HEADING UP THE AUTOPSY...
...SO IT SHOULD BE QUICKER THAN USUAL.
WE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT.


I'M GOING TO GO MAKE THEM RUSH!
NARUTO...!
IF YOU BOTHER MASTER SHIZUNE, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!


I WILL AVENGE PERVY SAGE!


...!


I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND DOING NOTHING!


...


NARUTO-BOY...
...NOW THAT WE'VE DECIPHERED THIS HERE CODE, THERE'S NOTHIN' ELSE GOING ON THAT INVOLVES YOU RIGHT NOW, YA HEAR ME?


READ THIS WAY


?!


N' EITHER WAY, YER DEFINITELY NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT PAIN YET.

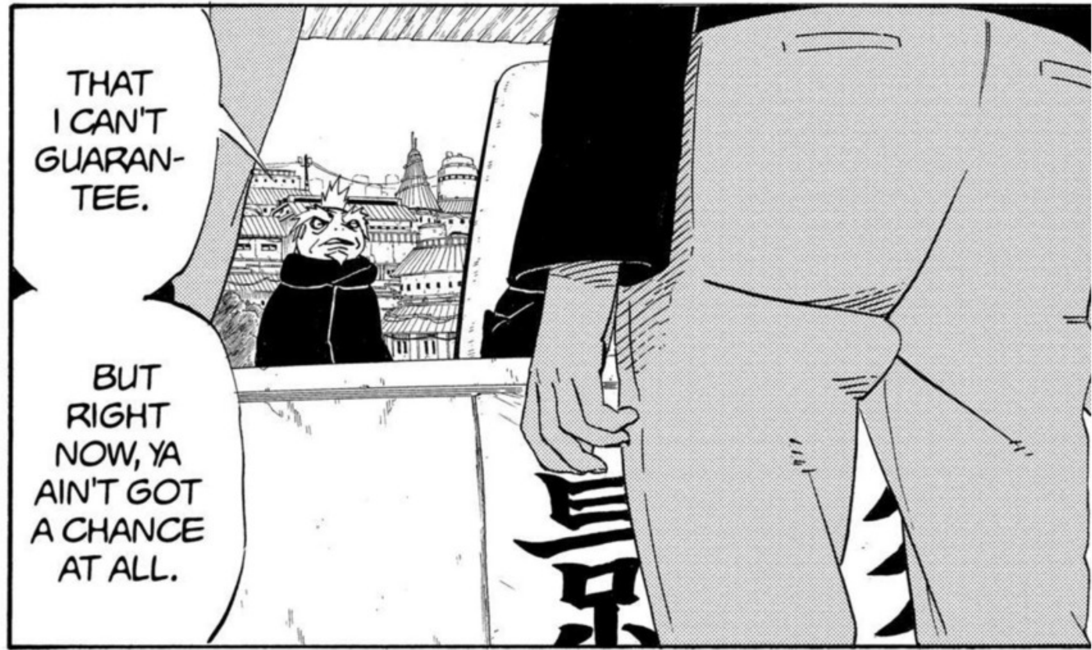

...SO WHAT ABOUT IT?


SO... COME ALONG WITH ME.


?


I'LL TRAIN YA IN SAGE JUTSU AT MOUNT MYOBOKU.
THE SAME WAY I HAMMERED IT INTO JIRAIYA-BOY, IF IT'S OKAY WIT' YOU.



VWEENT
WILL IT LET ME WIN AGAINST PAIN?!

THAT I CAN'T GUARAN-TEE.
BUT RIGHT NOW, YA AIN'T GOT A CHANCE AT ALL.

...

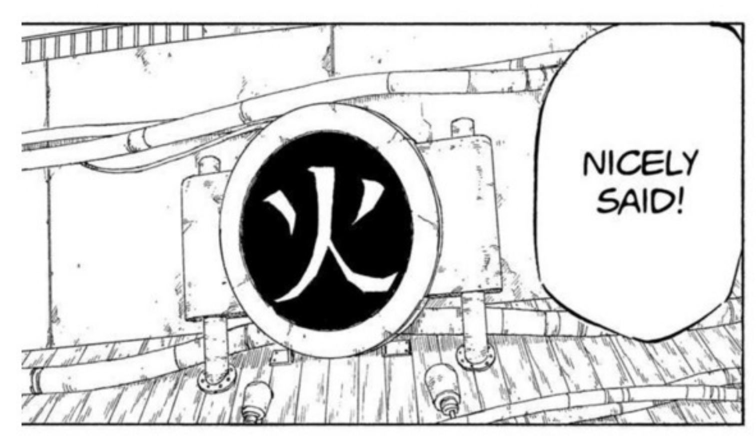
YA ALL RIGHT WITH IT, TSUNADE?

OF COURSE...
NARUTO, GO GET TRAINED.

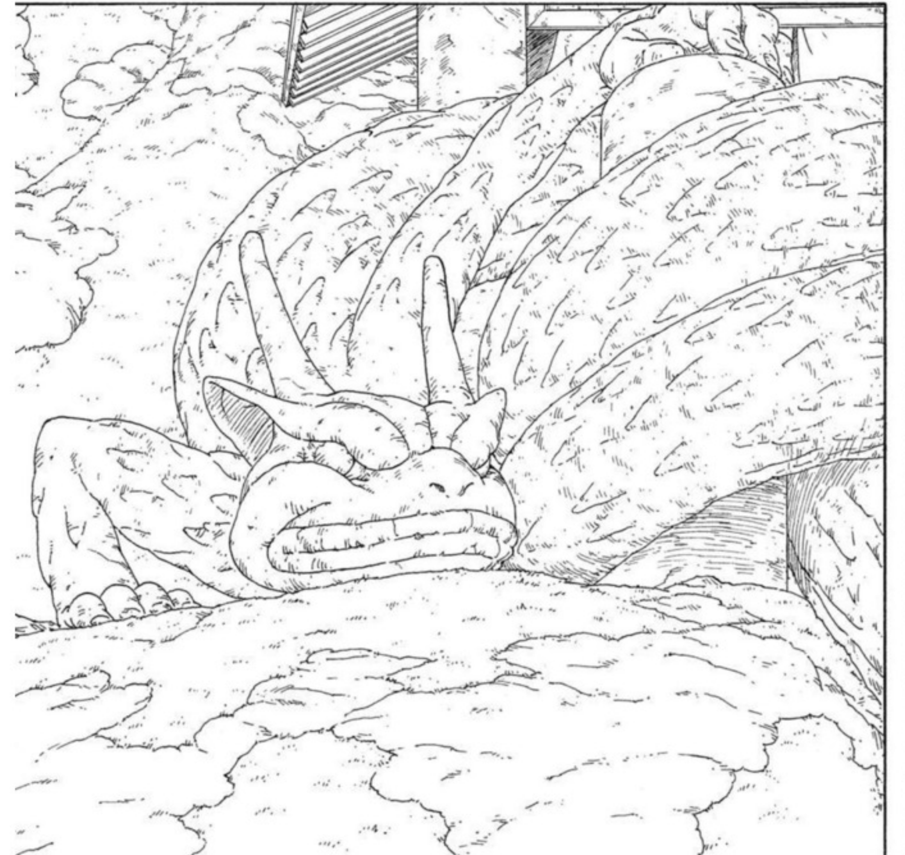
I'M WARNIN' YA RIGHT NOW, SAGE JUTSU TRAININ' IS UN-BELIEVABLY RIGOROUS!
YA UP FER IT?

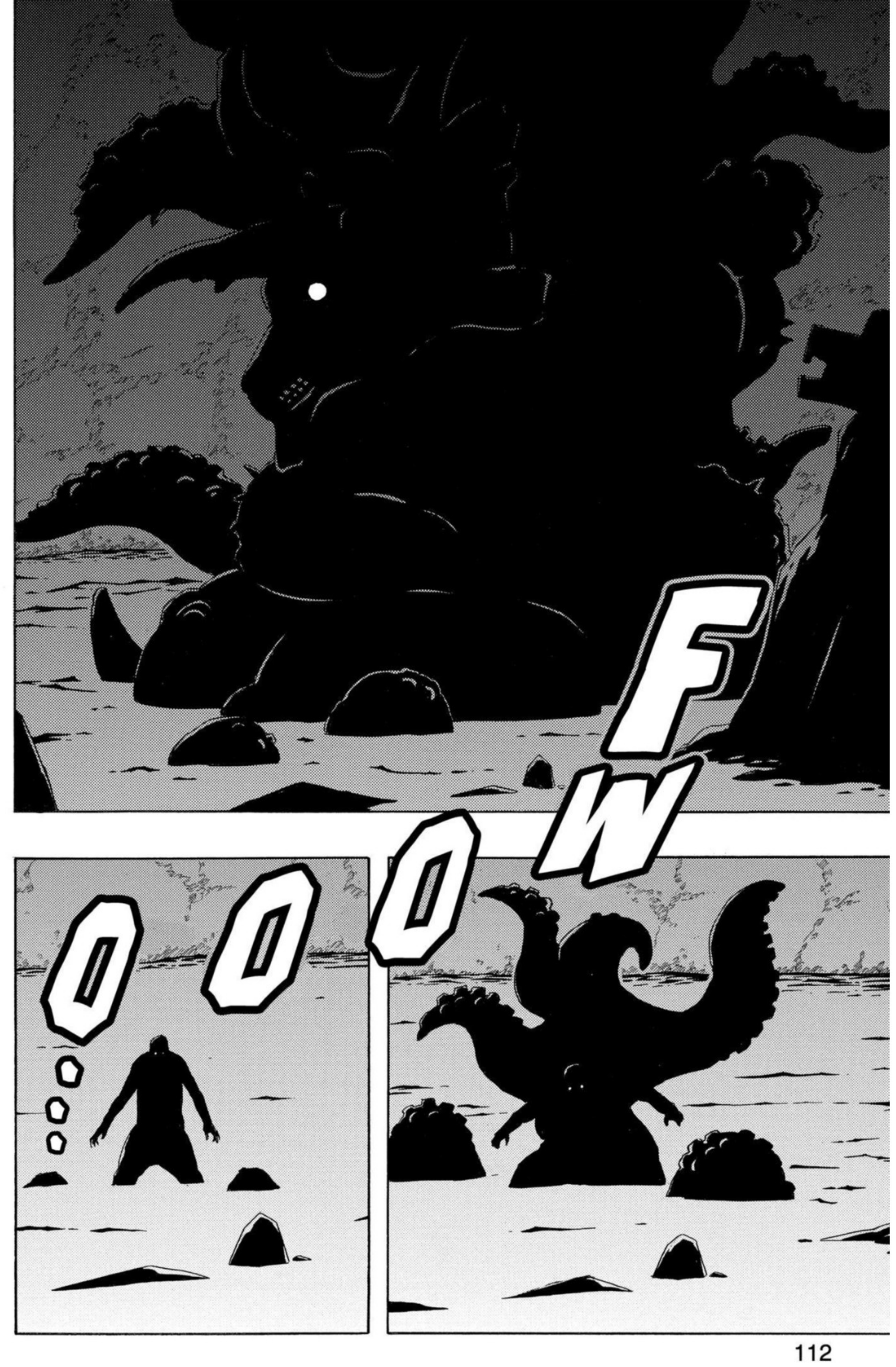
IF PERVY SAGE WAS ABLE TO MASTER IT...
THEN I'M GOING TO GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT TOO!
I'M IN!!





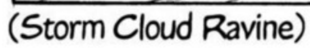


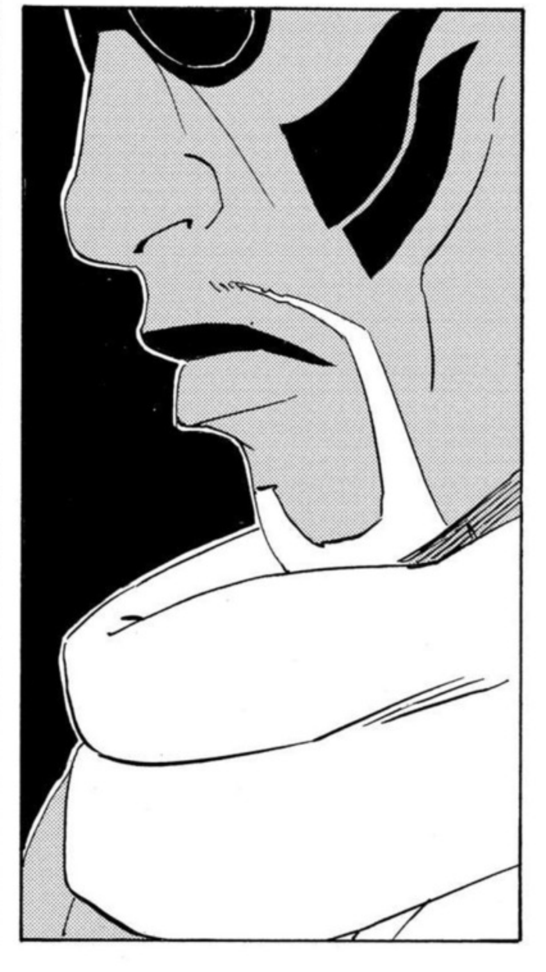



FWOOO...






(Storm Cloud Ravine)



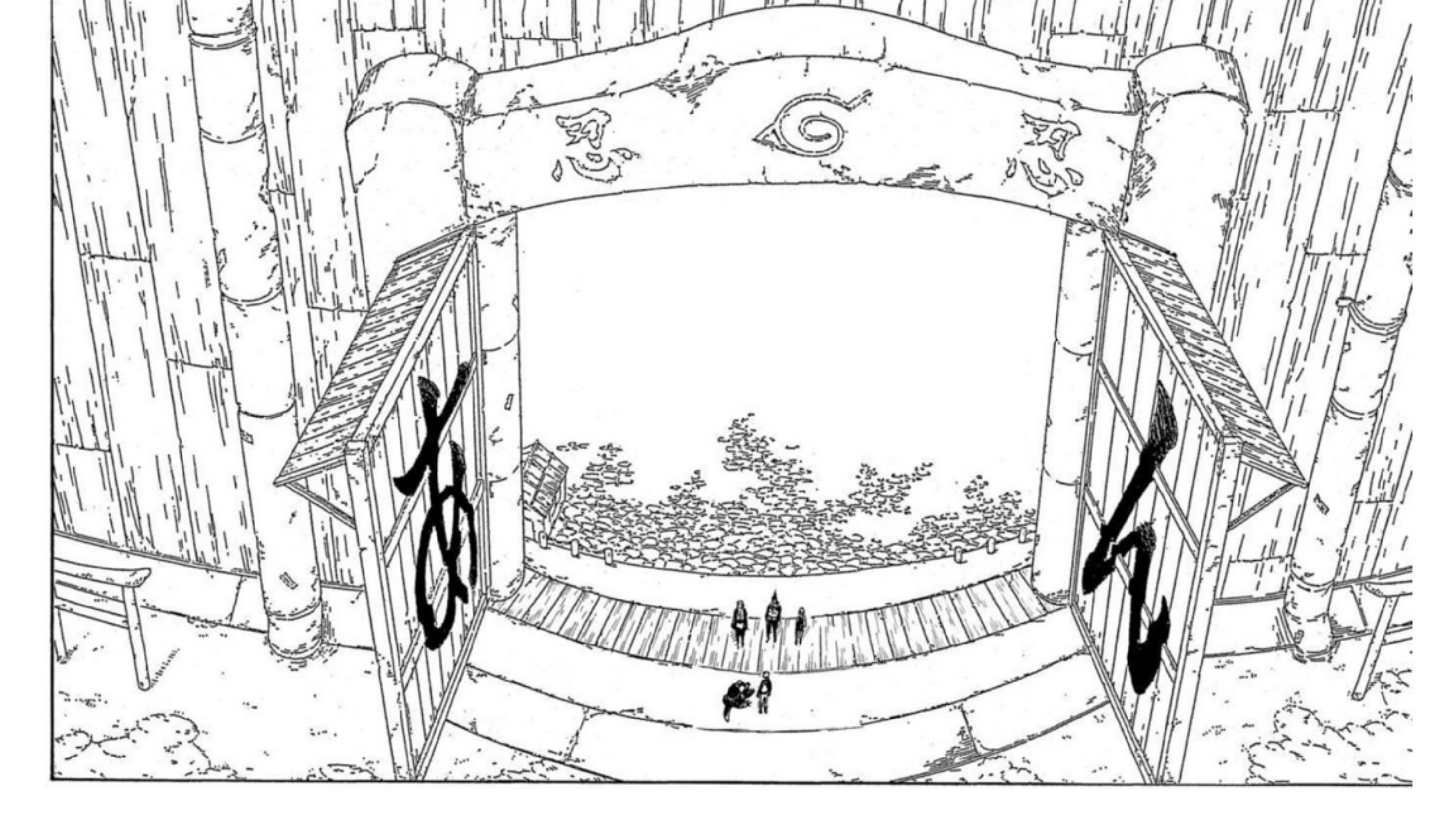
OW, MY SIGHT... LIGHT TOO BRIGHT.

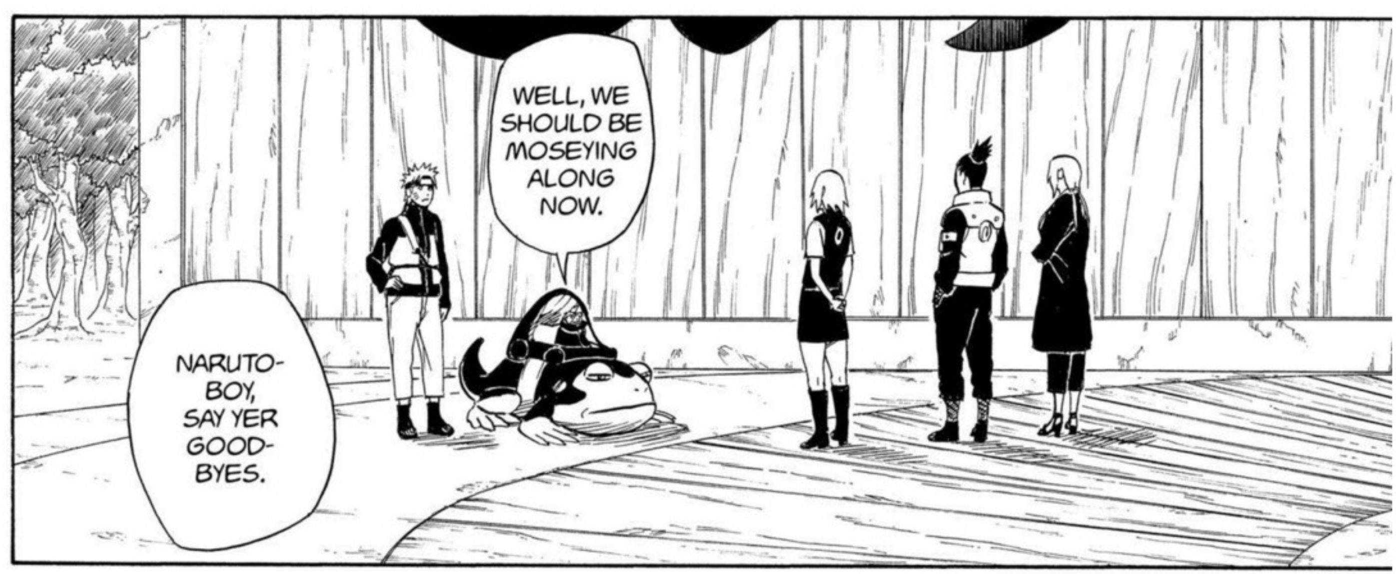
KRUNCH

NOON ALREADY? NO, FOOL, YA FOOL!


NARUTO

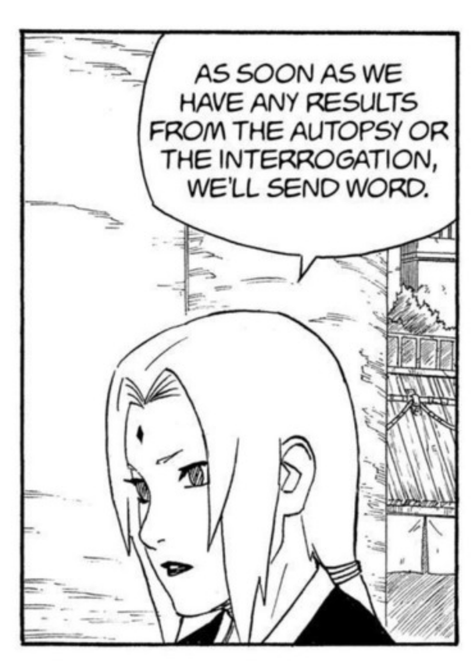

Number 409: Senjutsu Heir...!!




WELL, WE SHOULD BE MOSEYING ALONG NOW.
NARUTO-BOY, SAY YER GOOD-BYES.


I'M OFF!
SHIKAMARU, I'M HANDING THE CODE OVER TO YOU.

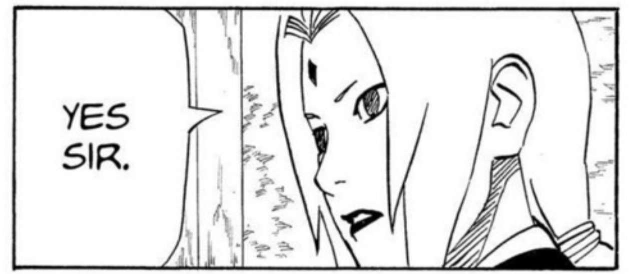

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.

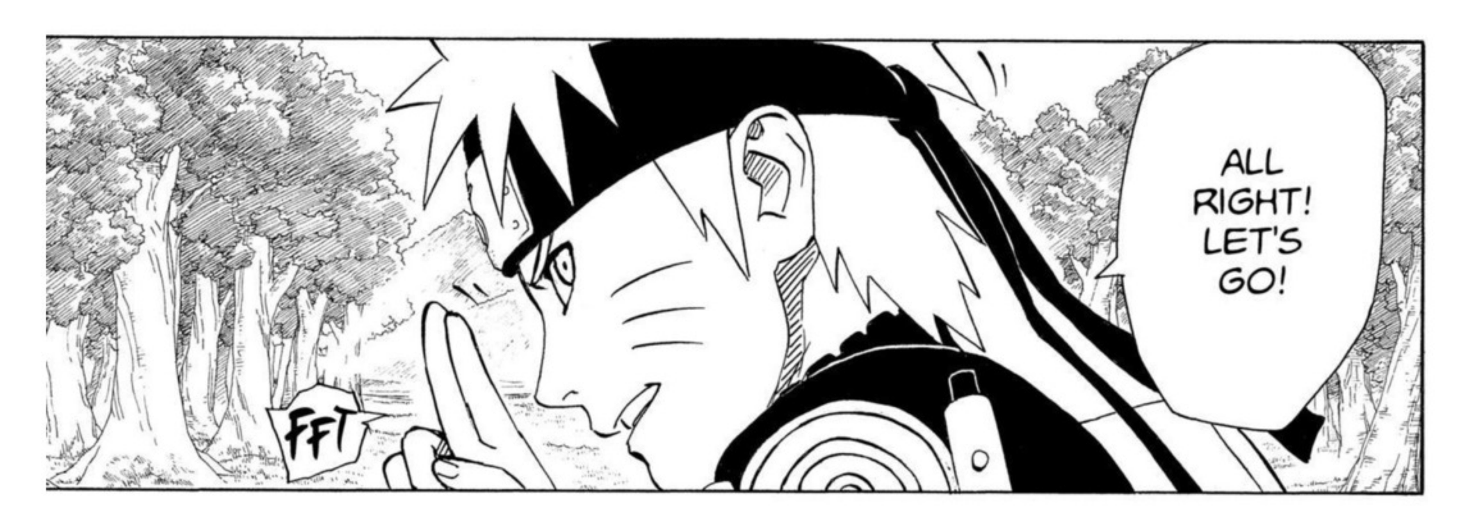

AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANY RESULTS FROM THE AUTOPSY OR THE INTERROGATION, WE'LL SEND WORD.


READ
THIS
WAY


YUP!
GOOD LUCK, NARUTO!
KRRNCH


I'LL LEAVE A MESSENGER FROG WITH YA.
IF ANYTHIN' HAPPENS, SEND 'IM BACK.


YES SIR.


ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO!
FFT


...
TIKRAK


ER... WHICH WAY'S MOUNT MYOBOKU, AGAIN?
SMMRK


...
SHUP
SHUP


IT TAKES A MONTH TO GET THERE ON FOOT.
N' AS IT'S ALSO KNOWN AS MAZE MOUNTAIN...
...IF YA DON'T KNOW THE SECRET ROUTE, YA WON'T BE ABLE TA GIT THERE.


SHRUUMP
IT'S REALLY THAT HARD TO GET THERE?


NARUTO-BOY... YA'VE ALREADY SIGNED A BINDING CONTRACT WITH US TOADS.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
BO


OH!
THAT'S ...!

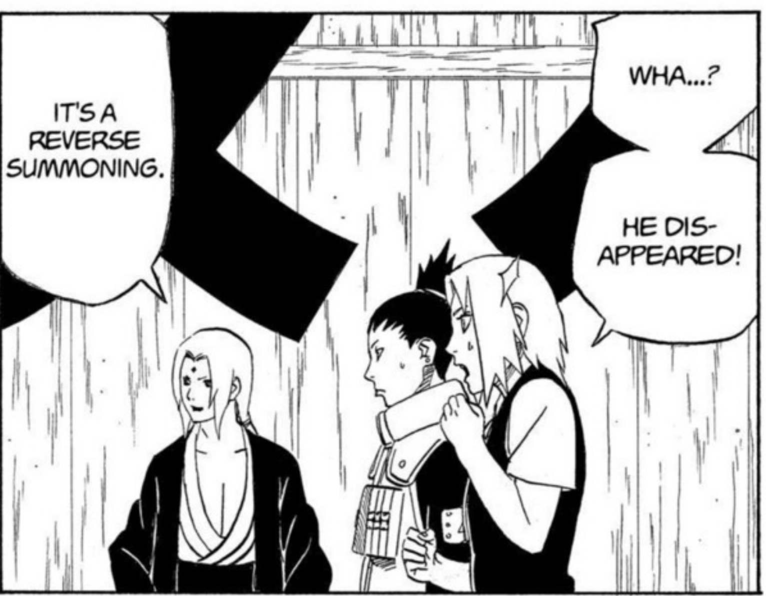

BO-OF
WELL THEN, I'LL BE BORROWIN' THAT BOY.


WE ARE IN YOUR DEBT.


READ
THIS
WAY


BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THERE'S NO NEE...


BOOF


WHA...?
HE DIS-APPEARED!
IT'S A REVERSE SUMMONING.

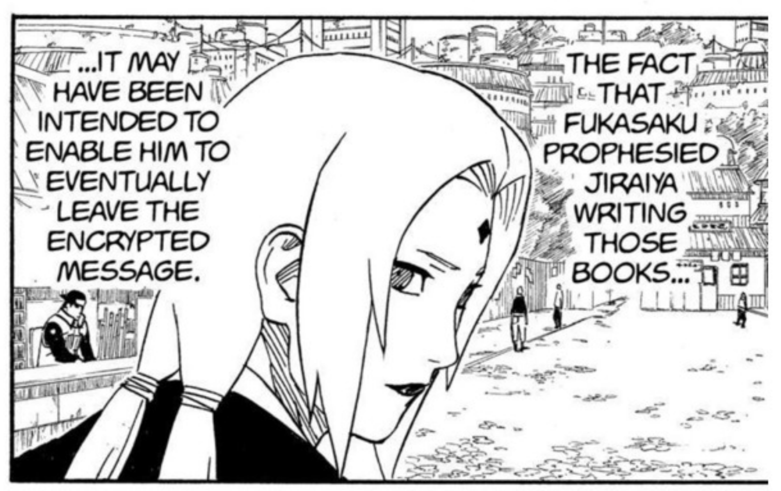

WOW ...

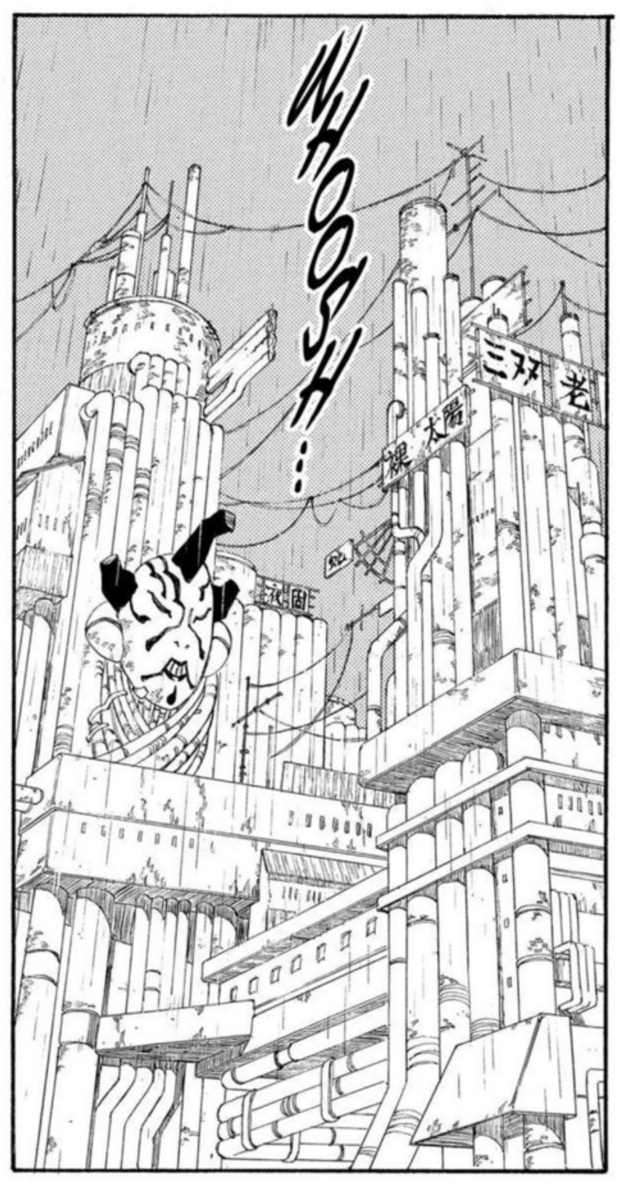

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR END TOO.


BOOOF



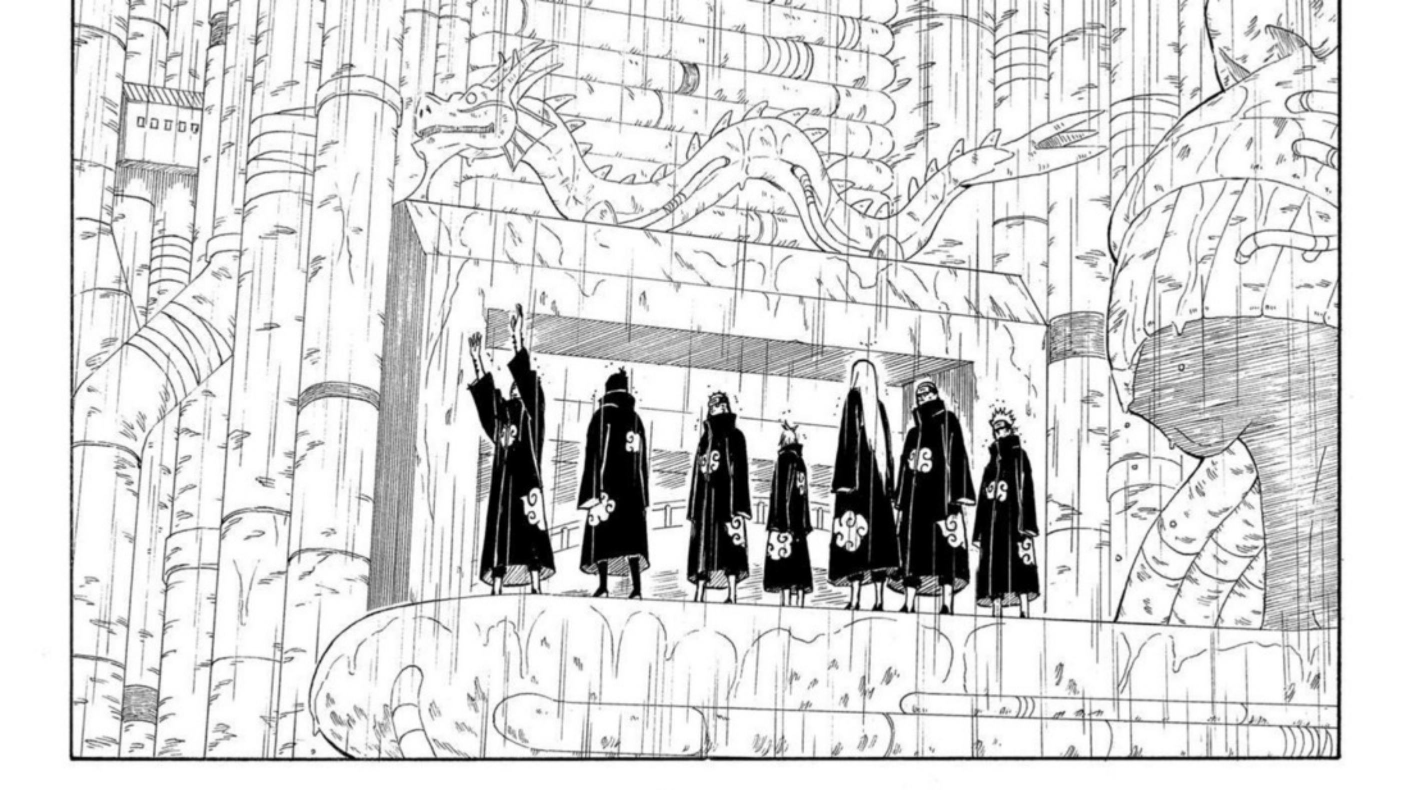
OKAY, LET'S GO DEVOTE OURSELVES TO DECIPHERING JIRAIYA'S OTHER BEQUESTS.
ROGER.
YES MA'AM.












ALL IS READY.


OUR GOAL IS NINE TAILS.
DESTROY ALL SHINOBI WHO INTERFERE.


VOOSH


?!

!!


WHAT THE?


BOOF

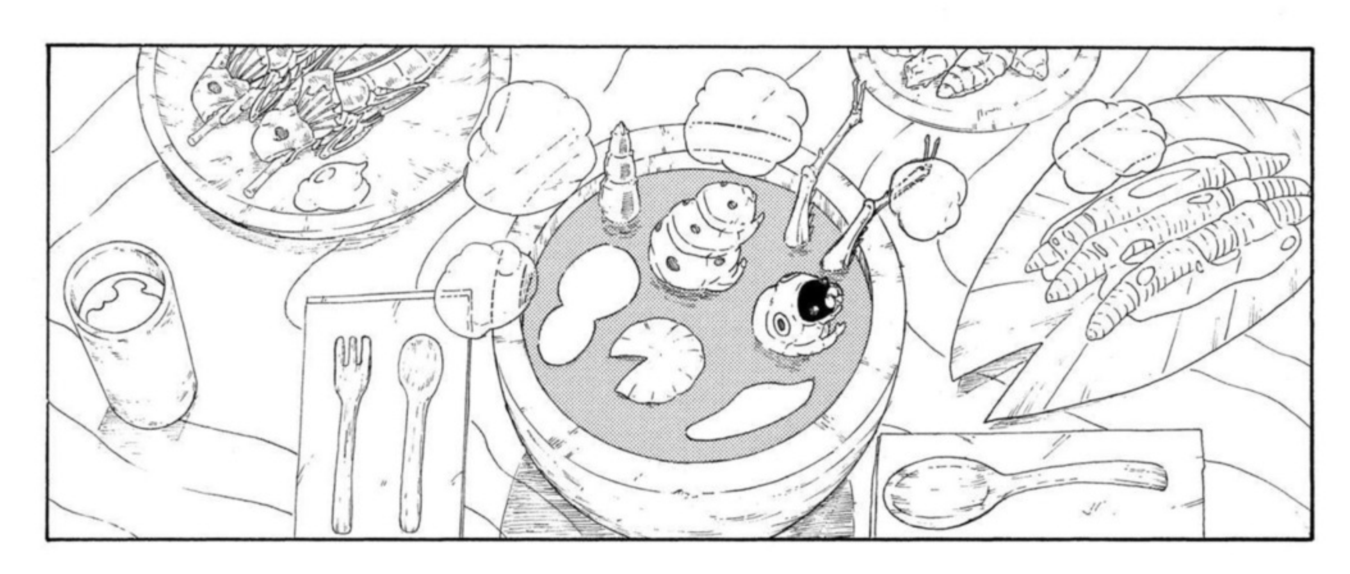

NARUTO.
GAMA-
KICHI!

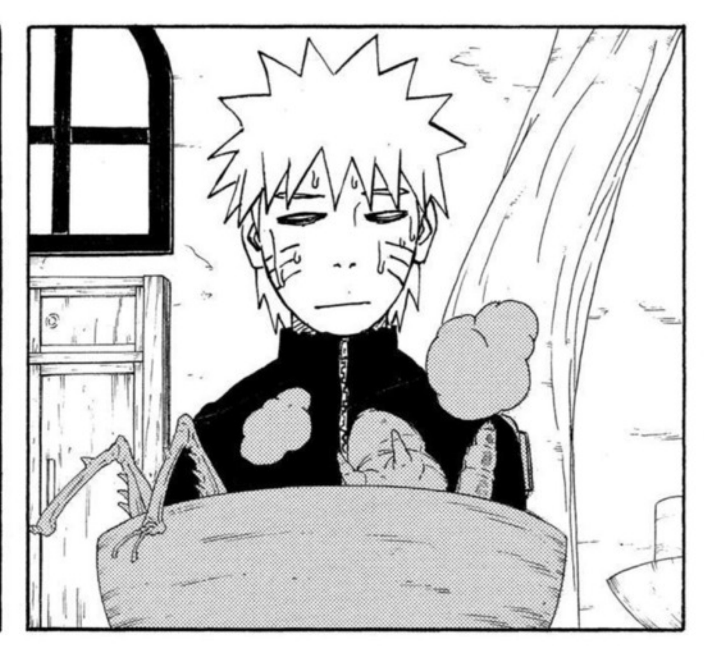
READ THIS WAY













TOK TOK TOK...

UGH...



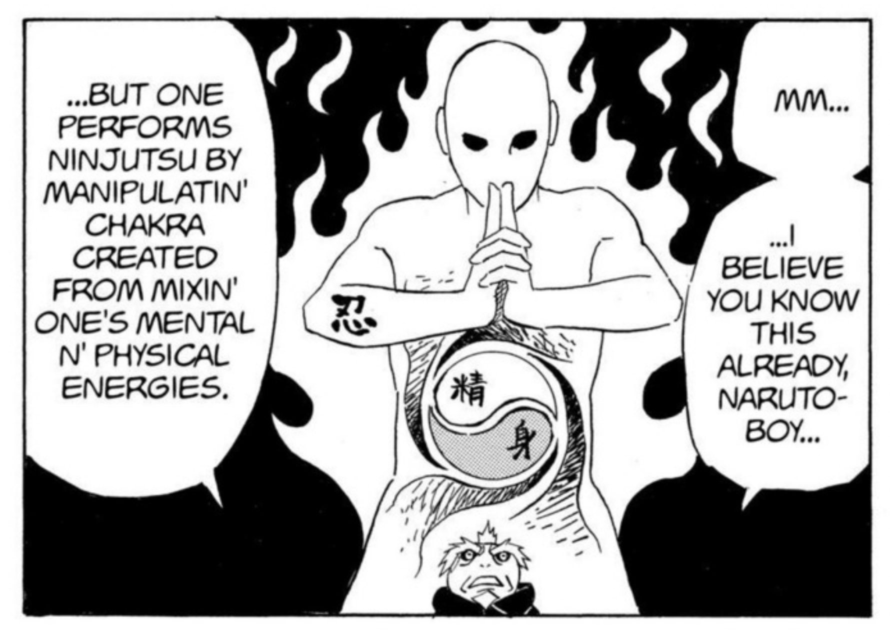




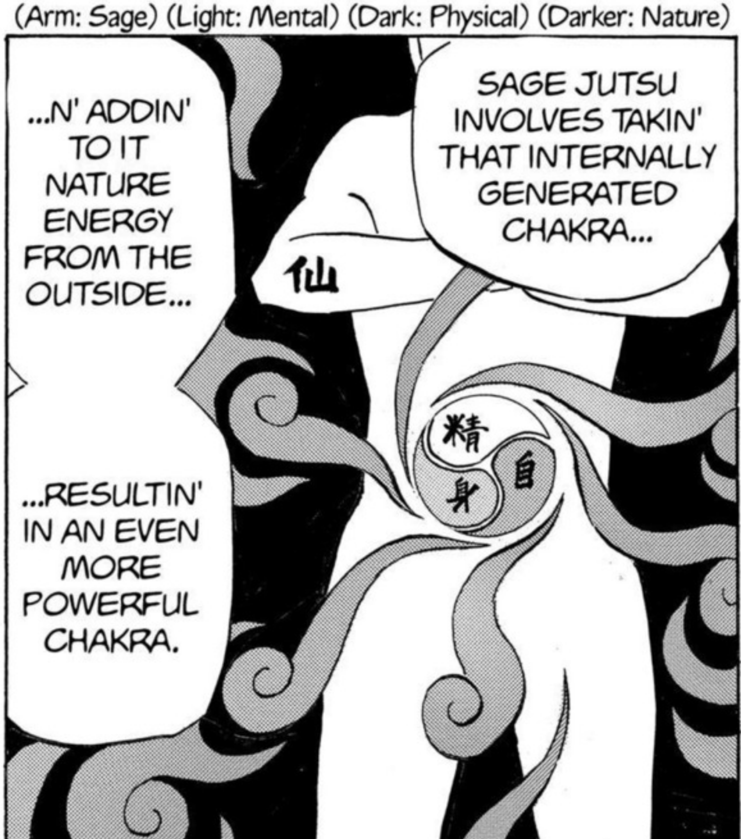








(Arm: Sage) (Light: Mental) (Dark: Physical) (Darker: Nature)





MENTAL ENERGY N' PHYSICAL ENERGY FROM INSIDE YOU...
...N' NATURE ENERGY FROM THE OUTSIDE.
DUNF
JUTSU BORN FROM THE CHAKRA CREATED BY THESE THREE ENERGIES MIXED...
...IS WHAT'S KNOWN AS SAGE JUTSU.



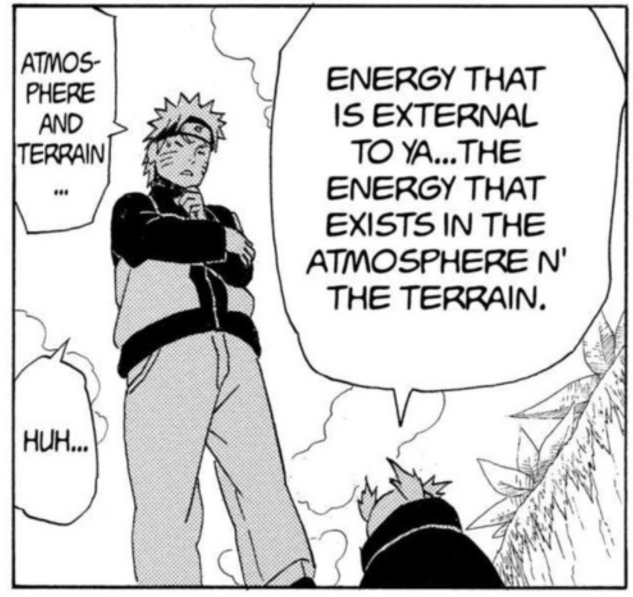


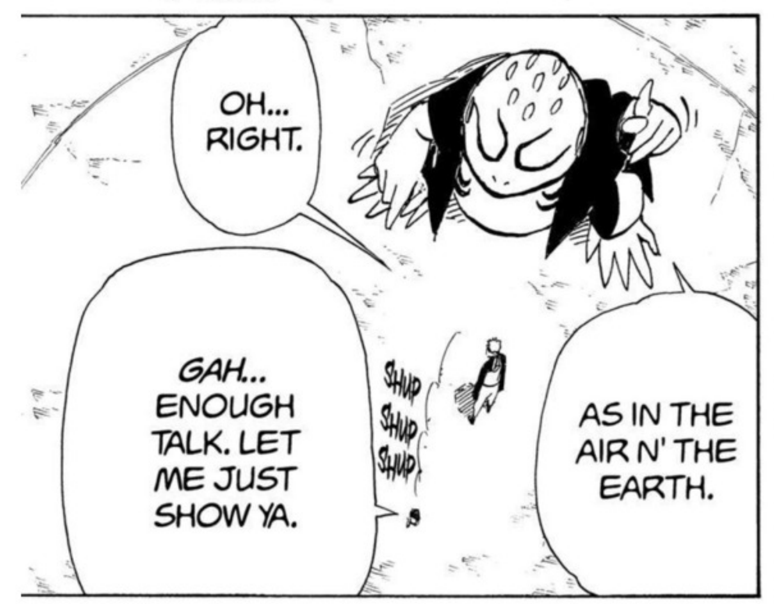







READ THIS WAY


ENERGY THAT IS EXTERNAL TO YA...THE ENERGY THAT EXISTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE N' THE TERRAIN.
ATMOSPHERE AND TERRAIN...
HUH...


AS IN THE AIR N' THE EARTH.
OH... RIGHT.
GAH... ENOUGH TALK. LET ME JUST SHOW YA.
SHUP SHUP SHUP


WOW!! YOU REALLY ARE AMAZIN', LORD FUKASAKU!
YOU'RE GATHERIN' NATURE ENERGY SO EASILY!!


THIS SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH.
FWP
SPROING
SPROING


?!
HUH? WHERE?


WH-WHOA...

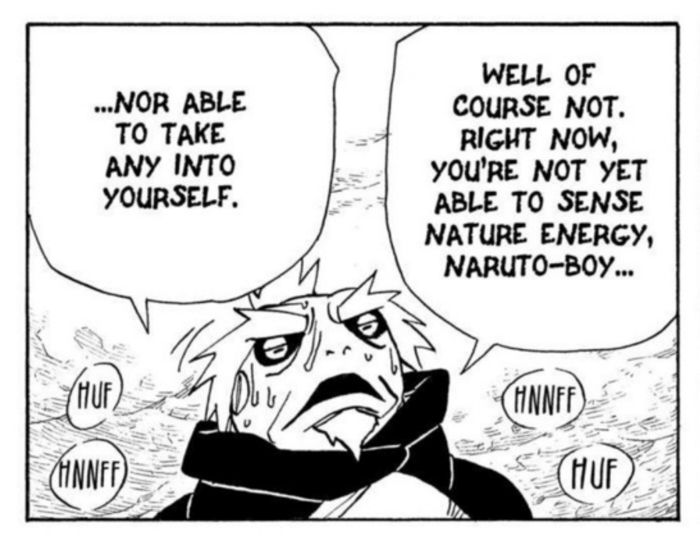

KLOMP


WOOMPH
H-HE'S LIFTING THAT?!!
W-WELL...?
THIS...IS THE POWER OF NATURE ENERGY-ENHANCED SAGE JUTSU.
RWISSH
RWISSH


READ THIS WAY


PHOOM...
WHOA!
FBRRRFBRRR


B-BUT I DON'T THINK I GOT A THING...
...EXCEPT THAT YOU WOVE A SIGN AT THE BEGINNING.


WELL OF COURSE NOT. RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE NOT YET ABLE TO SENSE NATURE ENERGY, NARUTO-BOY...
...NOR ABLE TO TAKE ANY INTO YOURSELF.
HNNFF
HUF
HUF
HNNFF

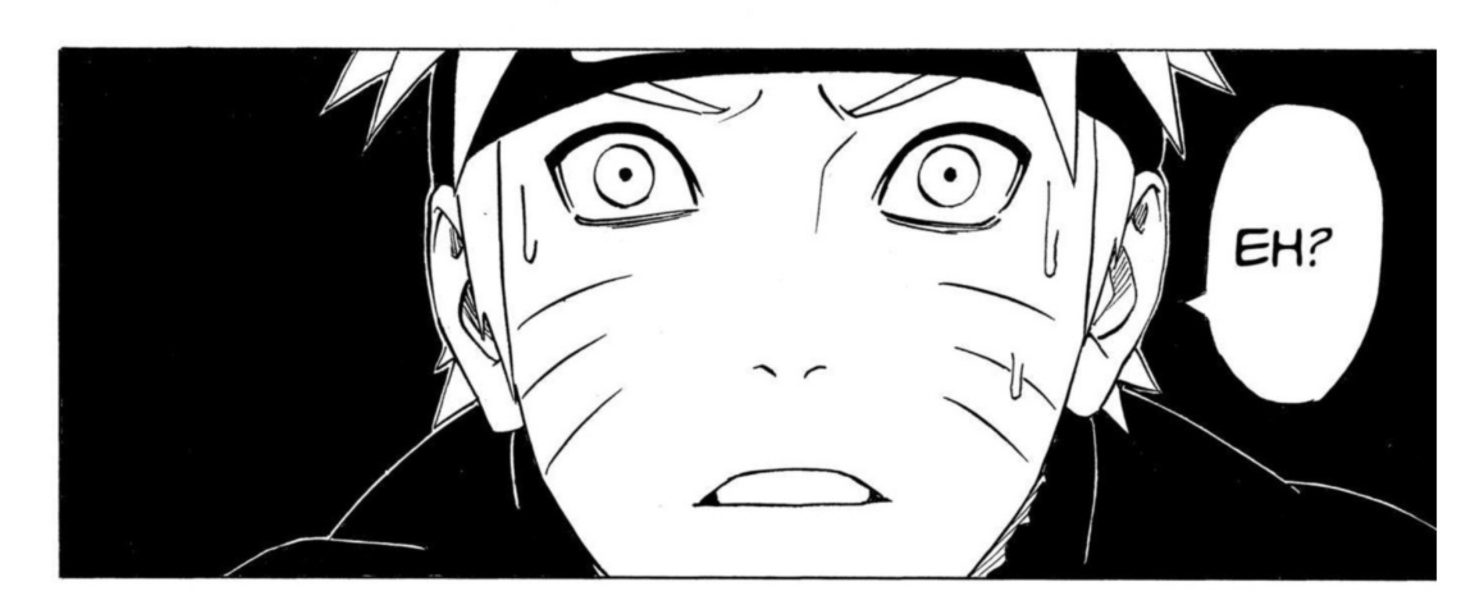

THEN HOW DO I DO IT?

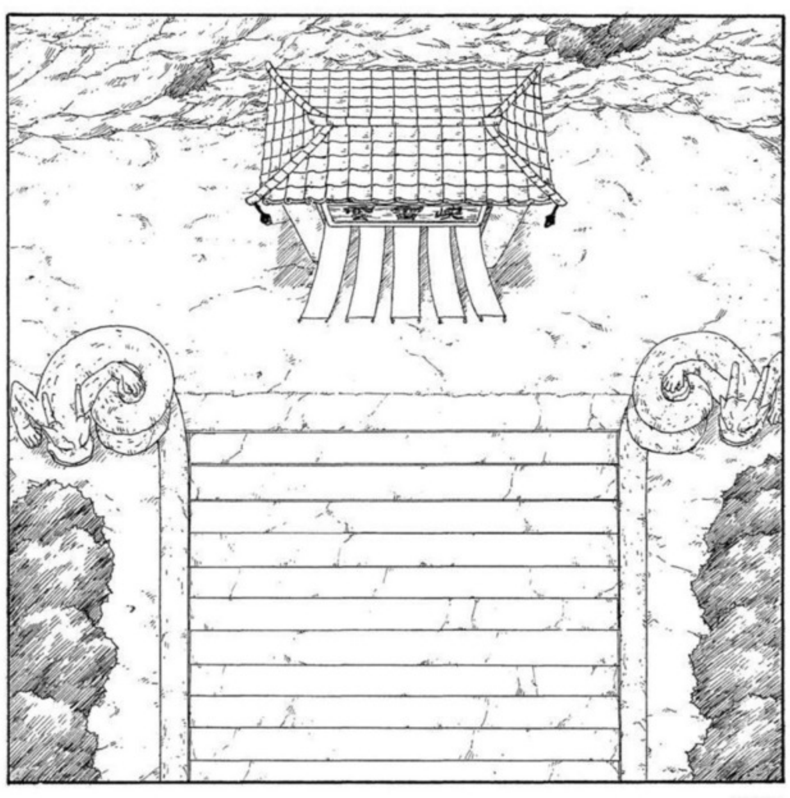

HUF
HUF


YOU BECOME ONE WITH NATURE!


AS IN
DIE.


...
URR... BECOME ONE...?


EH?




SHUP


READ THIS WAY


ARE YOU EIGHT TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI?


HEY, THAT'S ARE YOU LORD EIGHT TAILS, SIR? TO YOU.
OR, ARE YOU LORD JINCHÛRIKI, SIR? EH...

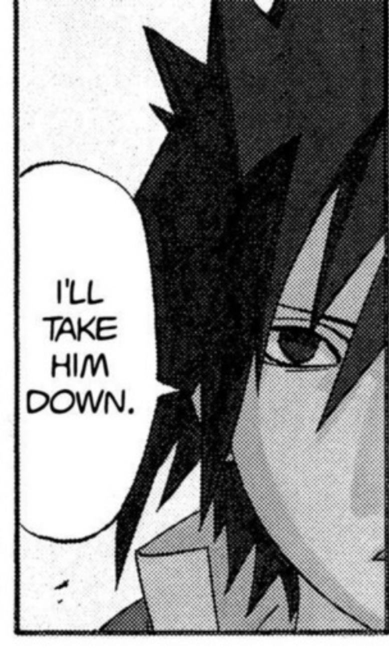

I'M HERE TO CAPTURE YOU.


NARUTO

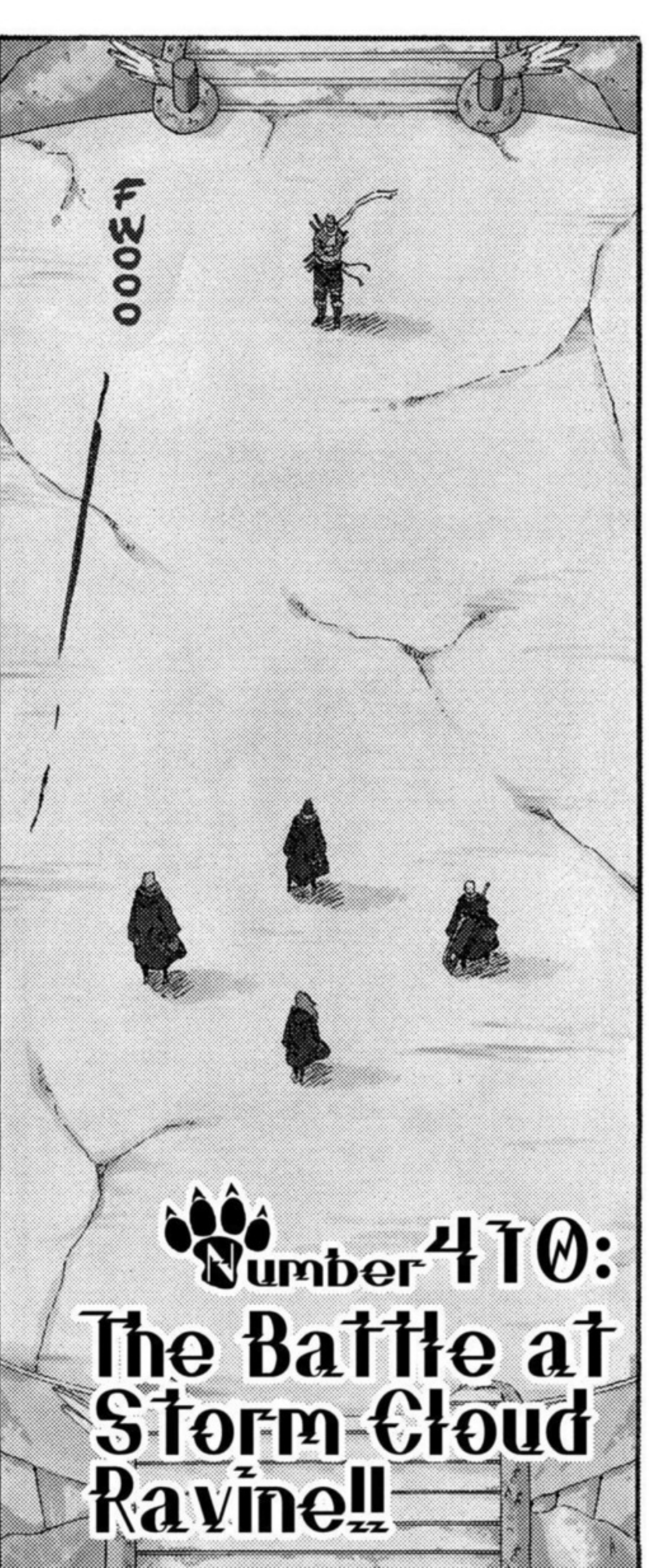












Number 410: The Battle at Storm Cloud Ravine!!

Number 410: The Battle at Storm Cloud Ravine!!




NARUTO
-ナルト-



I'M IN DA MIDST O'MY RHYMEZ, Y'ALL IZ BUSTIN' IN ON MY TIME, ...AN' NOW I GOTTA SPIT MY LINE, FOOLS, YA FOOLS!

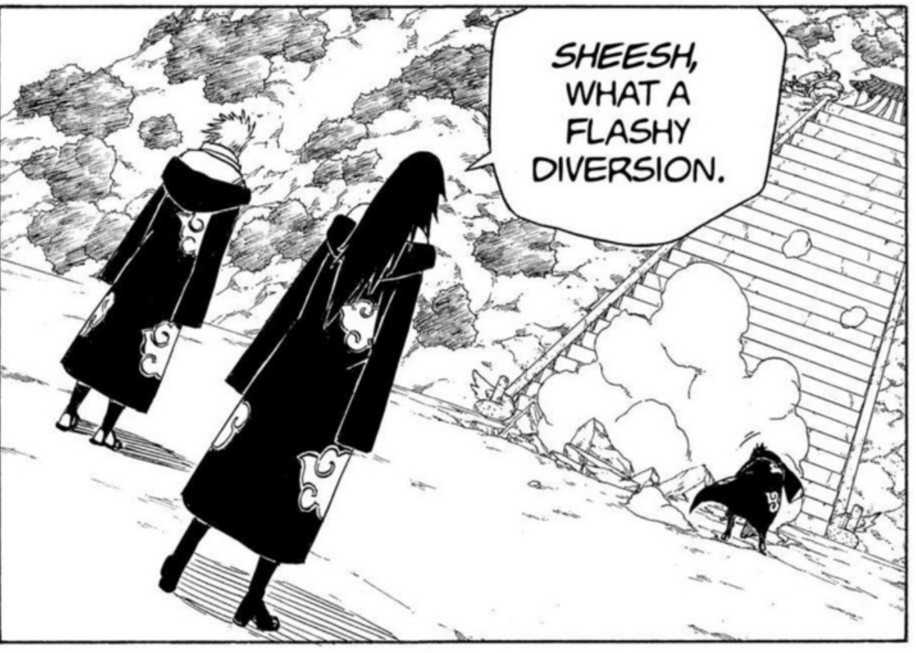


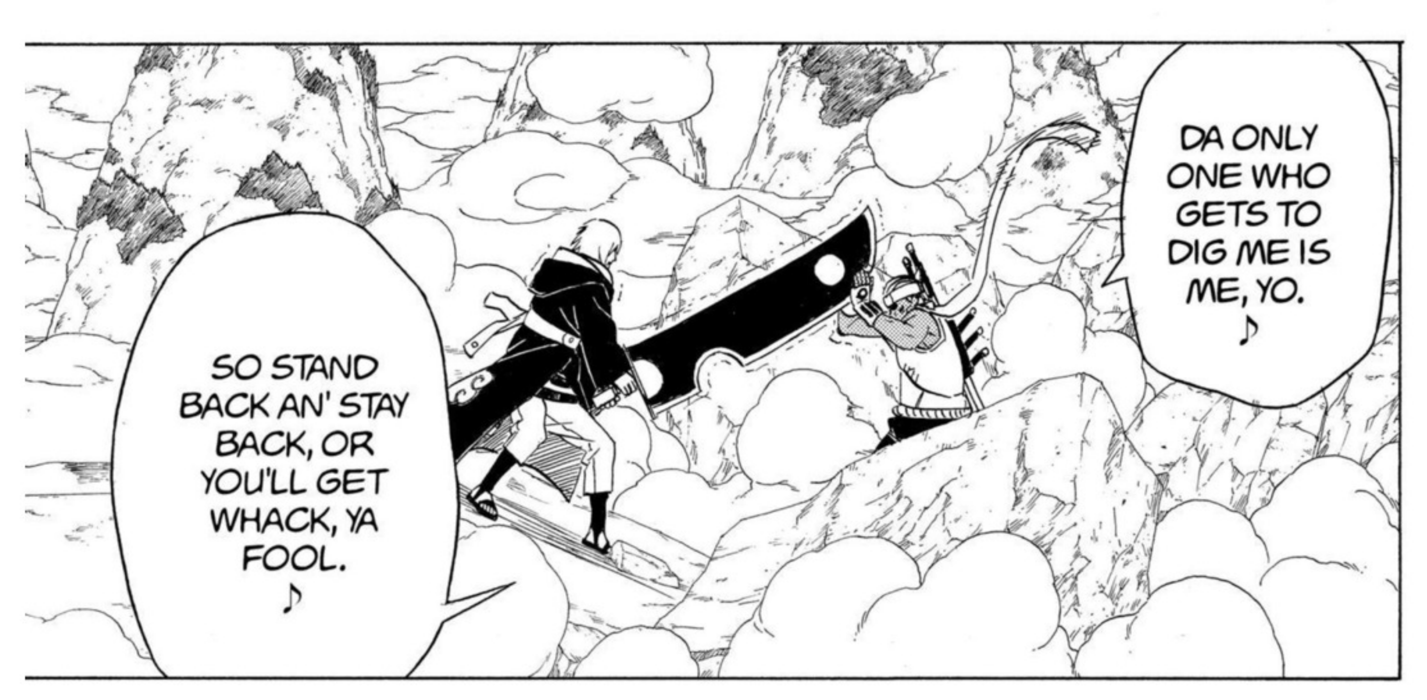



BOOOM
THE AKATSUKI TOLD US NOT TO COMPLETELY WIPE OUT...
...THE JINCHÛRIKI, REMEMBER, SUIGETSU?
DON'T WORRY.
I STILL FEEL HIS CHAKRA LOUD AND CLEAR.
SCRIIITCH


READ
THIS
WAY

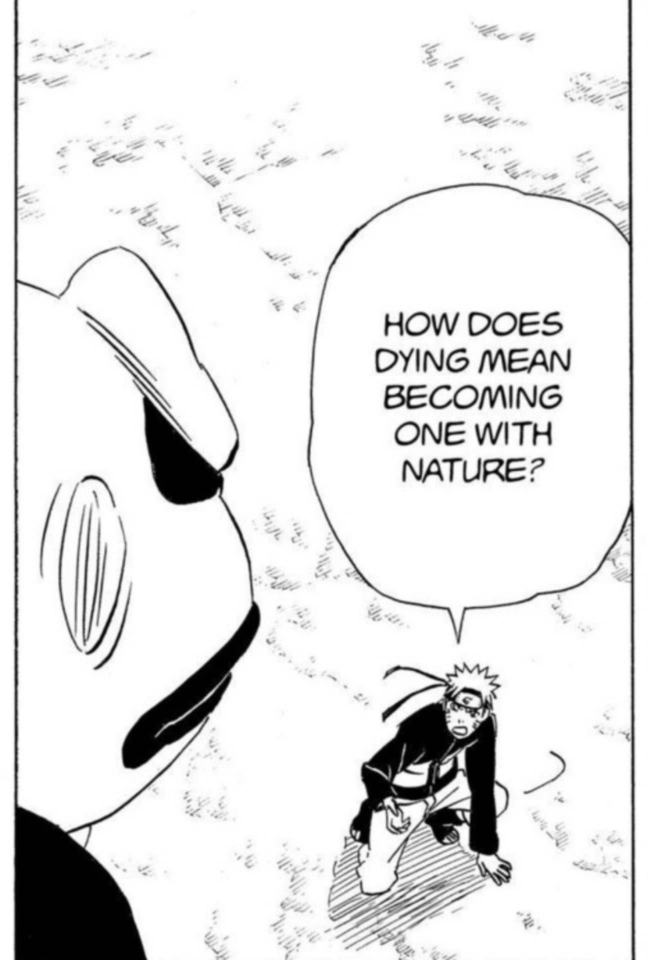



SHEESH, WHAT A FLASHY DIVERSION.


DA ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO DIG ME IS ME, YO. ♪
SO STAND BACK AN' STAY BACK, OR YOU'LL GET WHACK, YA FOOL. ♪


UGH!
WHORL
FWAP


STEP BACK, SUIGETSU ...
SHUP


...DIE?!

HOW DOES DYING MEAN BECOMING ONE WITH NATURE?

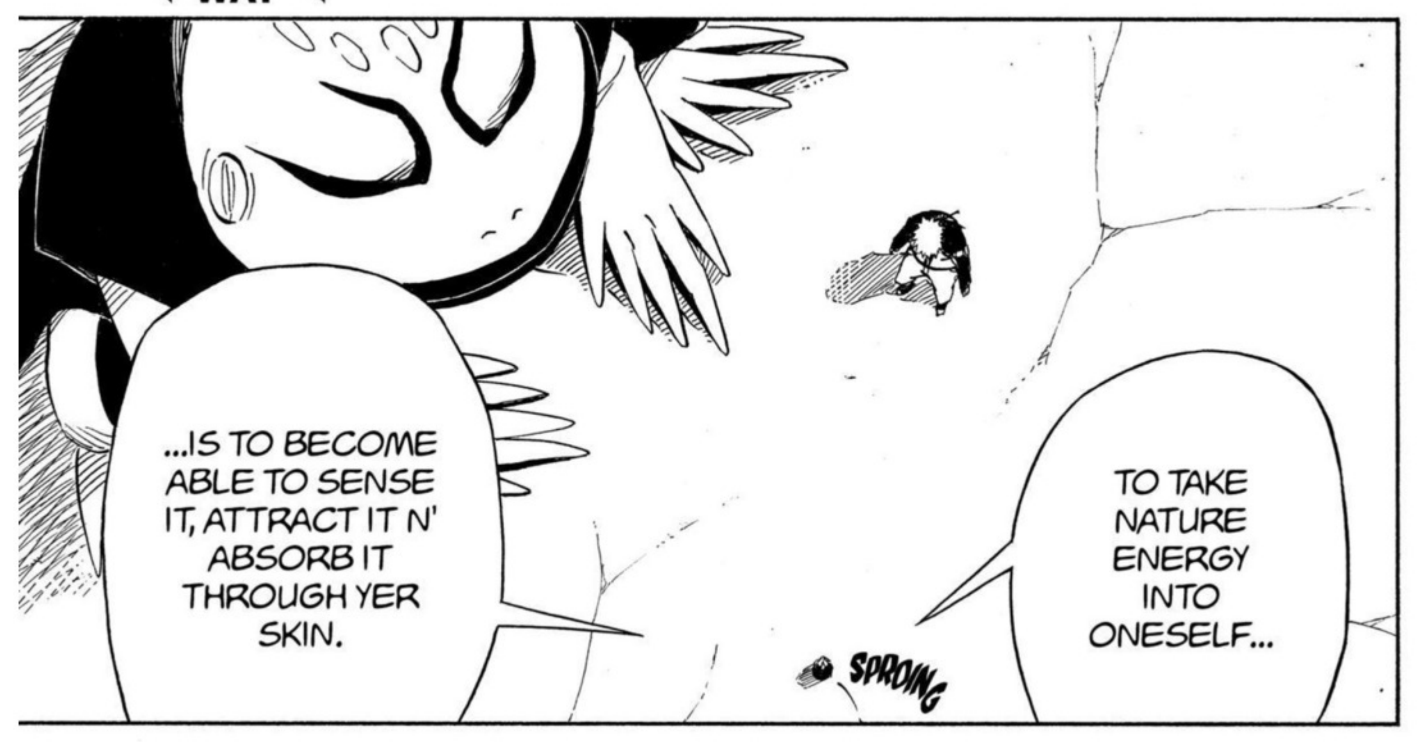
GAMAKICHI, WHAT'S WITH THE DYIN'? THAT'S TOO MUCH!
DON'T MAKE SUCH WEIRD ANALOGIES!
BUT...

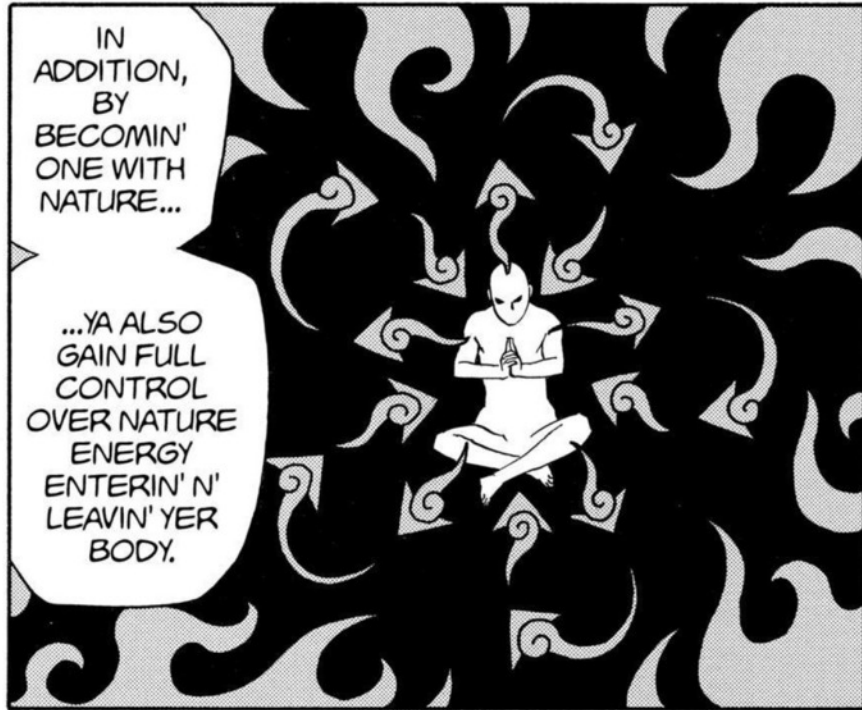
RELAX. YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY GONNA DIE, NARUTO-BOY.

JUST LISTEN 'TIL THE END.
I'LL EXPLAIN IT STEPWISE.

...


READ THIS WAY


TO TAKE NATURE ENERGY INTO ONESELF...
SPROING
...IS TO BECOME ABLE TO SENSE IT, ATTRACT IT N' ABSORB IT THROUGH YER SKIN.

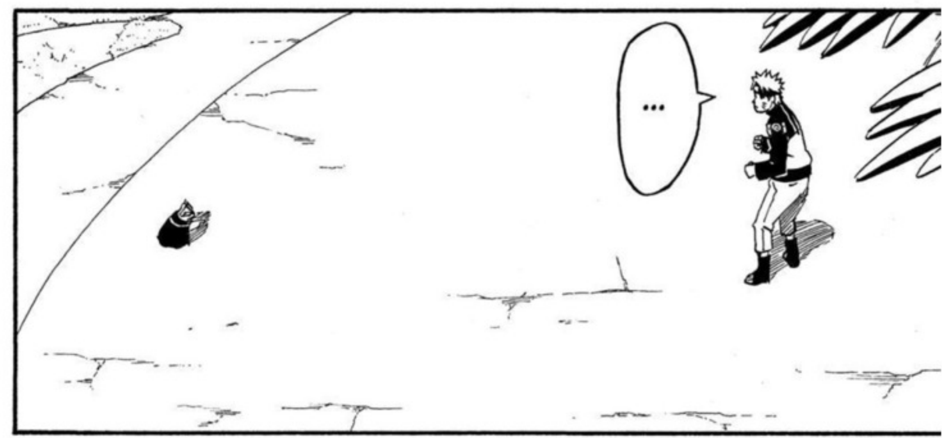

IN ADDITION, BY BECOMIN' ONE WITH NATURE...
...YA ALSO GAIN FULL CONTROL OVER NATURE ENERGY ENTERIN' N' LEAVIN' YER BODY.


...


PRACTICALLY SPEAKIN', IN TERMS OF YER TRAININ'...


YEAH!
GULP


DON'T MOVE.


...

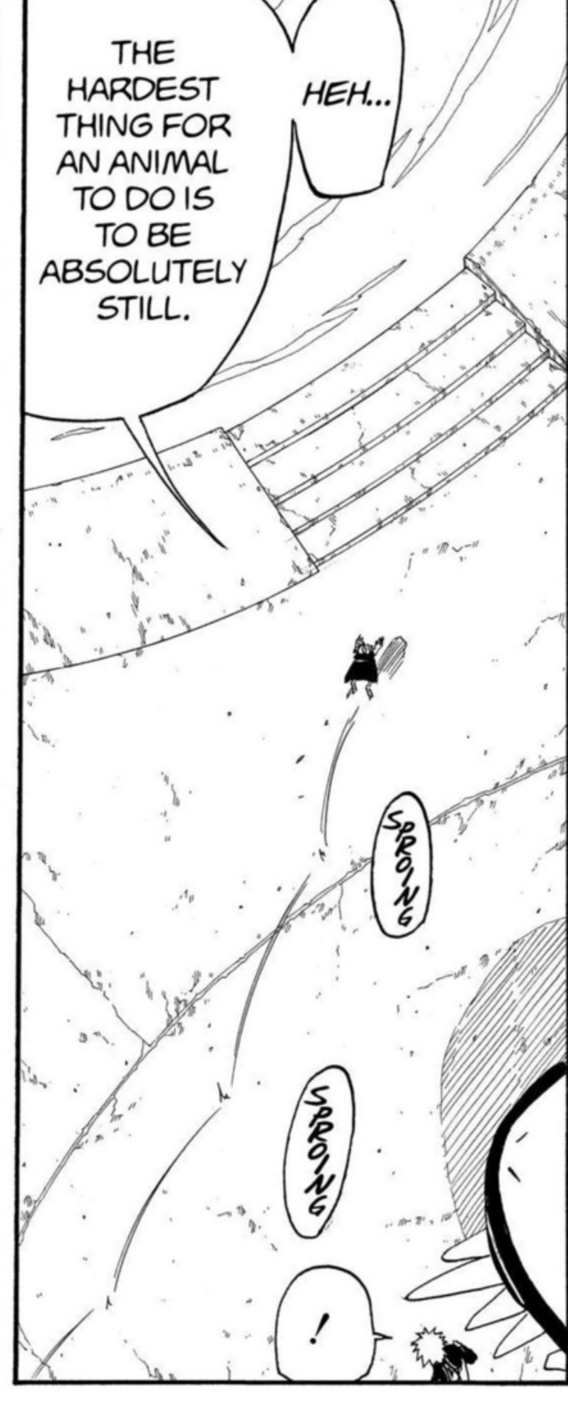

HUH?


WE ANIMALS CAN ONLY APPRECIATE AND SENSE NATURE ENERGY...
...WHEN WE STOP OUR OWN OUR MOVEMENTS N' SYNCHRONIZE OURSELVES WITH THE FLOW OF NATURE.


SO BASICALLY... I HAVE TO BE STILL?
ISN'T THAT JUST A LITTLE TOO EASY?


NARUTO, YA REALLY DON'T GET IT...


READ THIS WAY


HEH...
THE HARDEST THING FOR AN ANIMAL TO DO IS TO BE ABSOLUTELY STILL.
SPROING
SPROING
!


I'VE DONE ALL SORTS OF TRAINING... LEAPING, RUNNING, MANIPULATING CHAKRA...
...BUT NEVER **NOT MOVING...** I DON'T REALLY GET IT.
BUT THAT'S HOW YOU TAKE IN NATURE ENERGY, HUH?


IT'S NOT INSTINC-TUAL... THIS TRAININ' TAKES TIME.
TMP
THIS IS PRETTY HIGH-LEVEL STUFF.


YOU KNOW WE DON'T GOT A LOT OF TIME!
THERE ISN'T A SHORT-CUT OR SOME-THING?


WELL IT'S NOT THAT THERE ISN'T, BUT...


WHAT IS IT?


THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THIS WATERFALL BEHIND ME...THE SECRET TOAD OIL OF MOUNT MYOBOKU.


TOAD OIL?


COME HERE N' HOLD OUT ONE HAND.
?
SHUP


FSH
HERE.


DIP...

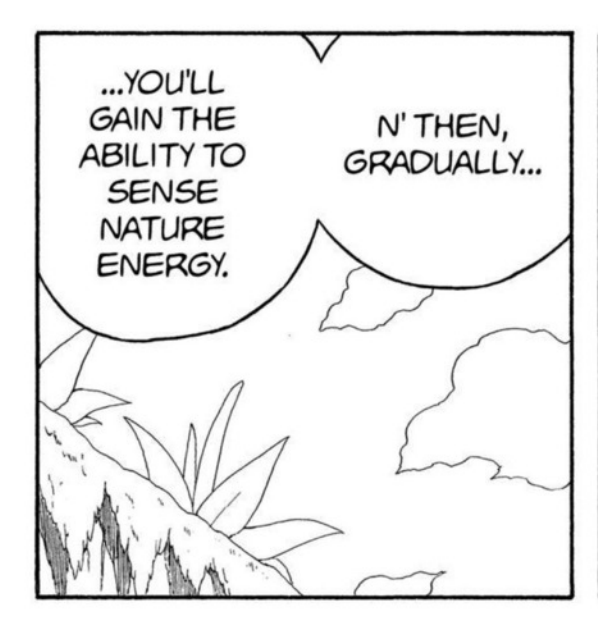

WHAT NOW?
SHUUG SHUUG


READ
THIS
WAY


THIS TOAD OIL HAS THE PROPERTY OF ATTRACTIN' NATURE ENERGY.
IT HELPS WITH TRAININ'.
SHUUG
SHUUG


WHOA! THAT'S USEFUL!
HEY, I THINK I FEEL SOME-THING...


WHER-EVER YA RUB THIS OIL ON YOUR BODY...
...NATURE ENERGY CAN ENTER THROUGH THERE.


N' THEN, GRADUALLY...
...YOU'LL GAIN THE ABILITY TO SENSE NATURE ENERGY.


IT IS A TOOL TA HELP GRASP THE CONCEPT...
...N' ALTHOUGH YOU'LL EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO DO WITHOUT IT...


...USIN' IT IS NOT WITHOUT RISKS.


?!
PHO
OM
ZWOO...
IF A NEOPHYTE WHO CANNOT CONTROL NATURE ENERGY USES IT, THEY START TRANSFORMIN' INTO A FROG.
AARGH!!







ARGH! HELP!!

SPROING

OWW!!

BONK

THAT HURT ...!

WHAT THE...

!

TMP

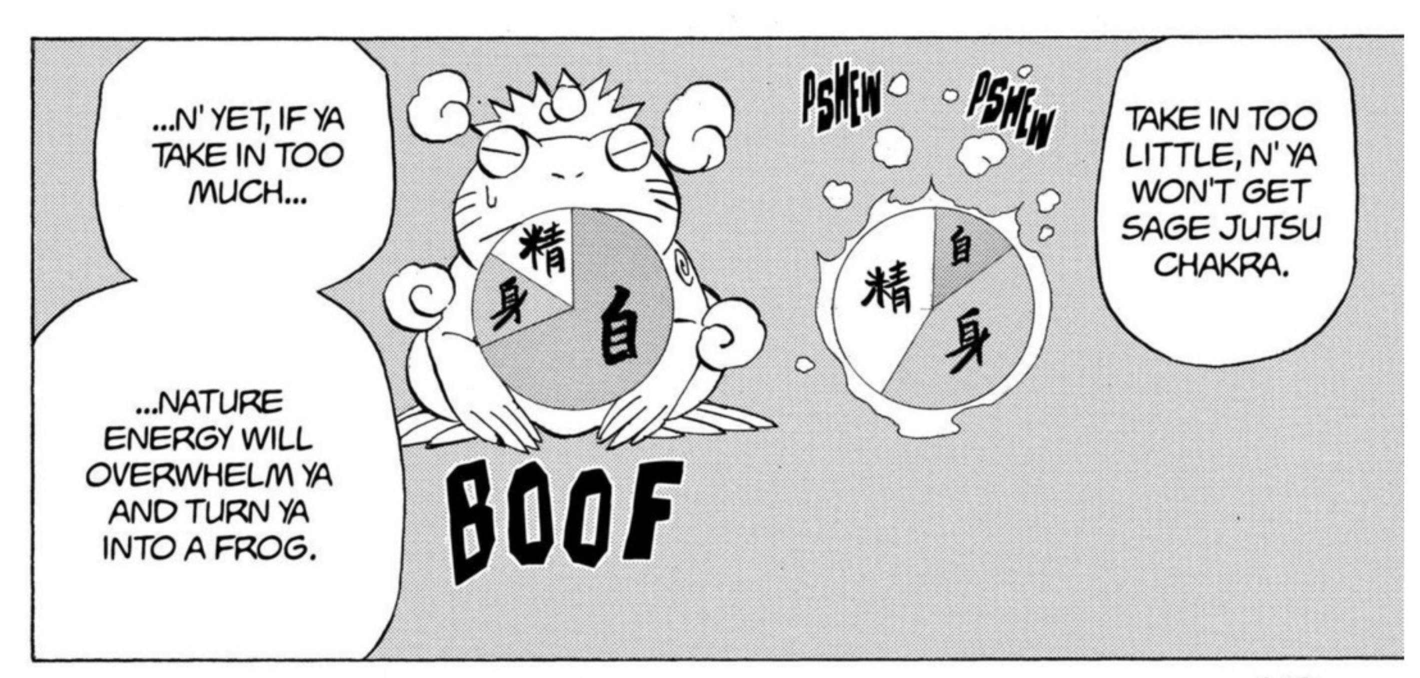
I-I'M ME AGAIN!


IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCE.
BETWEEN MENTAL ENERGY, PHYSICAL ENERGY, N' NATURE ENERGY.


精
自
身
仙
IF YA DON'T MANIPULATE THOSE THREE TOGETHER CAREFULLY, YA CAN'T PRODUCE SAGE JUTSU CHAKRA!!


... BALANCE, HUH...

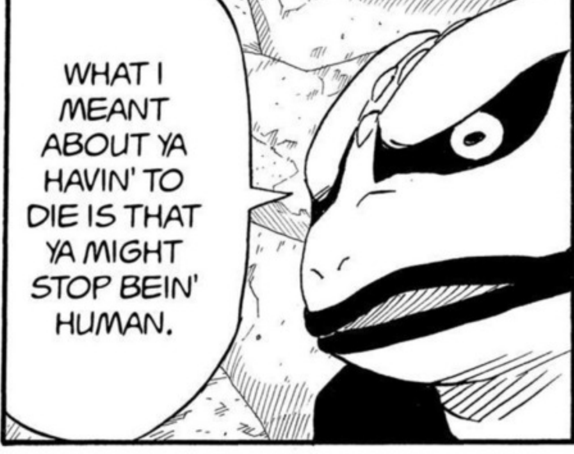

IT'S EASY FOR YA TO BALANCE MENTAL ENERGY N' PHYSICAL ENERGY BECAUSE YOU'RE USED TO DOIN' IT FOR REGULAR NINJUTSU CHAKRA...
...BUT THEN TO COMBINE NATURE ENERGY HARMON-IOUSLY FROM OUTSIDE IS THE DIFFICULT PART.

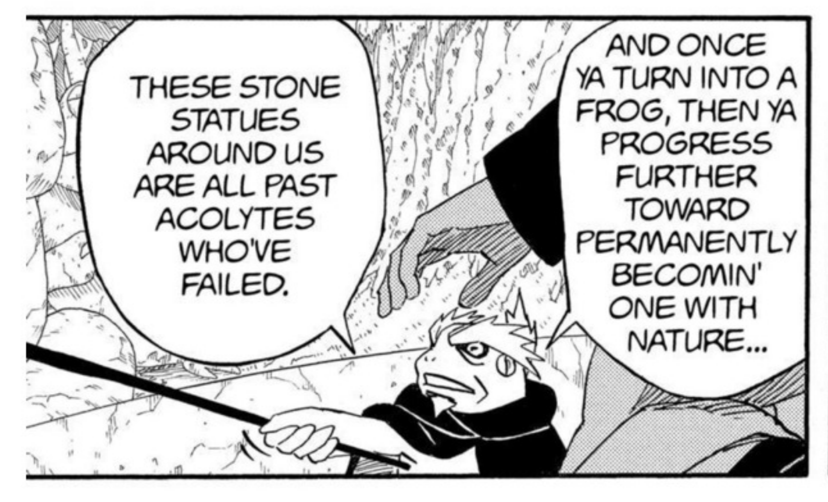

TAKE IN TOO LITTLE, N' YA WON'T GET SAGE JUTSU CHAKRA.
PSHEW
PSHEW
精
自
身
...N' YET, IF YA TAKE IN TOO MUCH...
精
身
自
BOOF
...NATURE ENERGY WILL OVERWHELM YA AND TURN YA INTO A FROG.


READ THIS WAY


IF YA ONLY TAKE IN A LITTLE TOO MUCH, IT'S REVERSIBLE.
BUT GET BEYOND A CERTAIN AMOUNT...
...AND YOU'LL NEVER REVERT BACK TO HUMAN AGAIN.


GULP


WHAT I MEANT ABOUT YA HAVIN' TO DIE IS THAT YA MIGHT STOP BEIN' HUMAN.


AND ONCE YA TURN INTO A FROG, THEN YA PROGRESS FURTHER TOWARD PERMANENTLY BECOMIN' ONE WITH NATURE...
THESE STONE STATUES AROUND US ARE ALL PAST ACOLYTES WHO'VE FAILED.



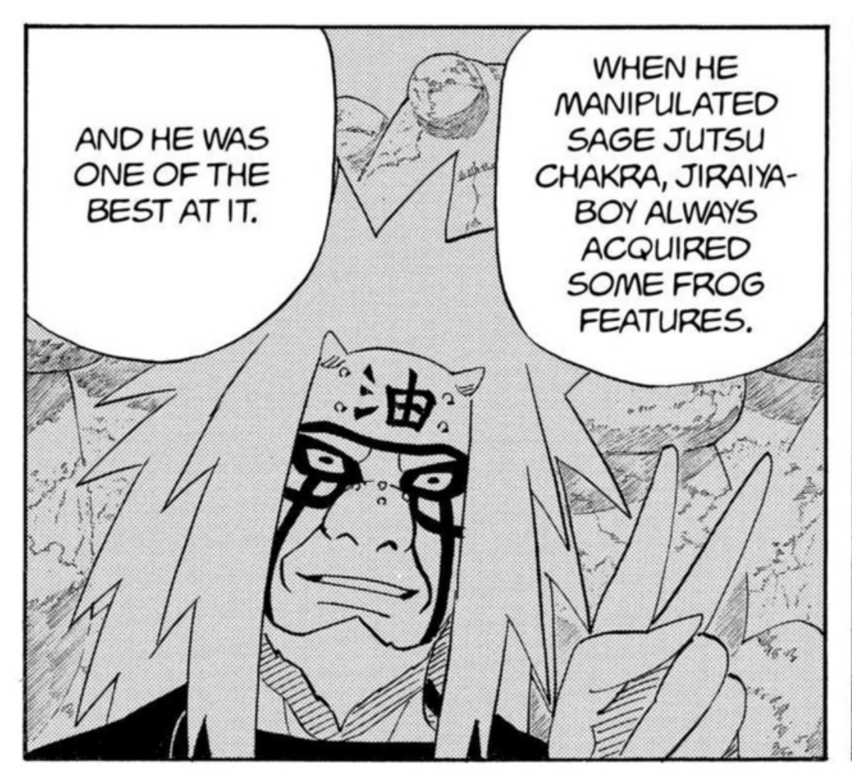

ALL OF THEM...?


WELL... DON'T FRET TOO MUCH... I'LL BE RIGHT AT YER SIDE.
THIS BATON IS A TOOL THAT BEATS NATURE ENERGY OUT OF ONE'S BODY.


IF YA START TRANSFORMIN' INTO A FROG, NARUTO-BOY, I'LL BEAT YA THOROUGHLY TO REVERSE IT.


...


SPEAKIN' TRUTH-FULLY...
...EVEN JIRAIYA-BOY WASN'T ABLE TO COMPLETELY MASTER THIS.


WHEN HE MANIPULATED SAGE JUTSU CHAKRA, JIRAIYA-BOY ALWAYS ACQUIRED SOME FROG FEATURES.
AND HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST AT IT.







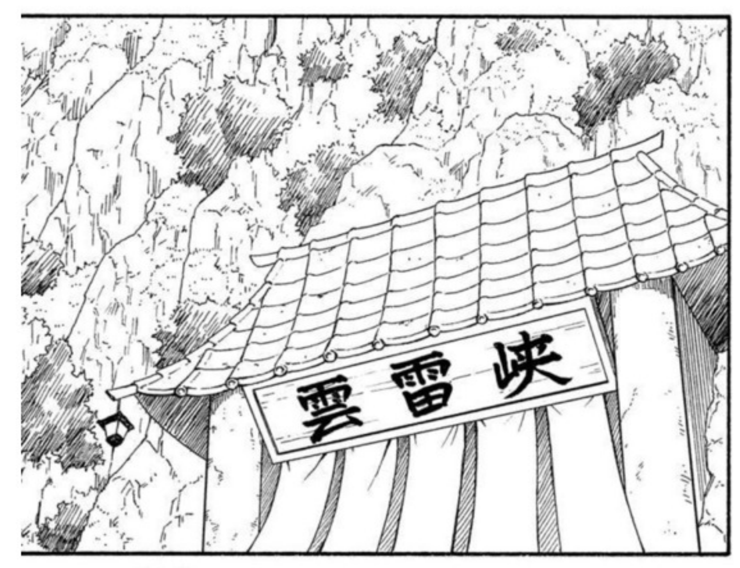


FWAP

MY SHINOBI WAY...

...IS THE SAME AS PERVY SAGE'S!






SHEENG
YO, MY POWER'S ALL A-FLASH, WITH SOME STILL LEFT IN MY STASH ♪
EIGHT TAILS, THAT BE ME, DA RAPPIN' KILLER BEE!
FA SHOW!


YEAH, THIS BATTLE Y'ALL INITIATED, BUT I'LL LEAVE YA HUMILIATED ♪
SO BEFORE YOU GET ALL DISINTEGRATED... OWW.
...


READ THIS WAY


WH-
WHAT IS UP WITH THIS GUY...?
I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH AN UNINTELLIGIBLE OAF GOT THE BETTER OF JUGO...

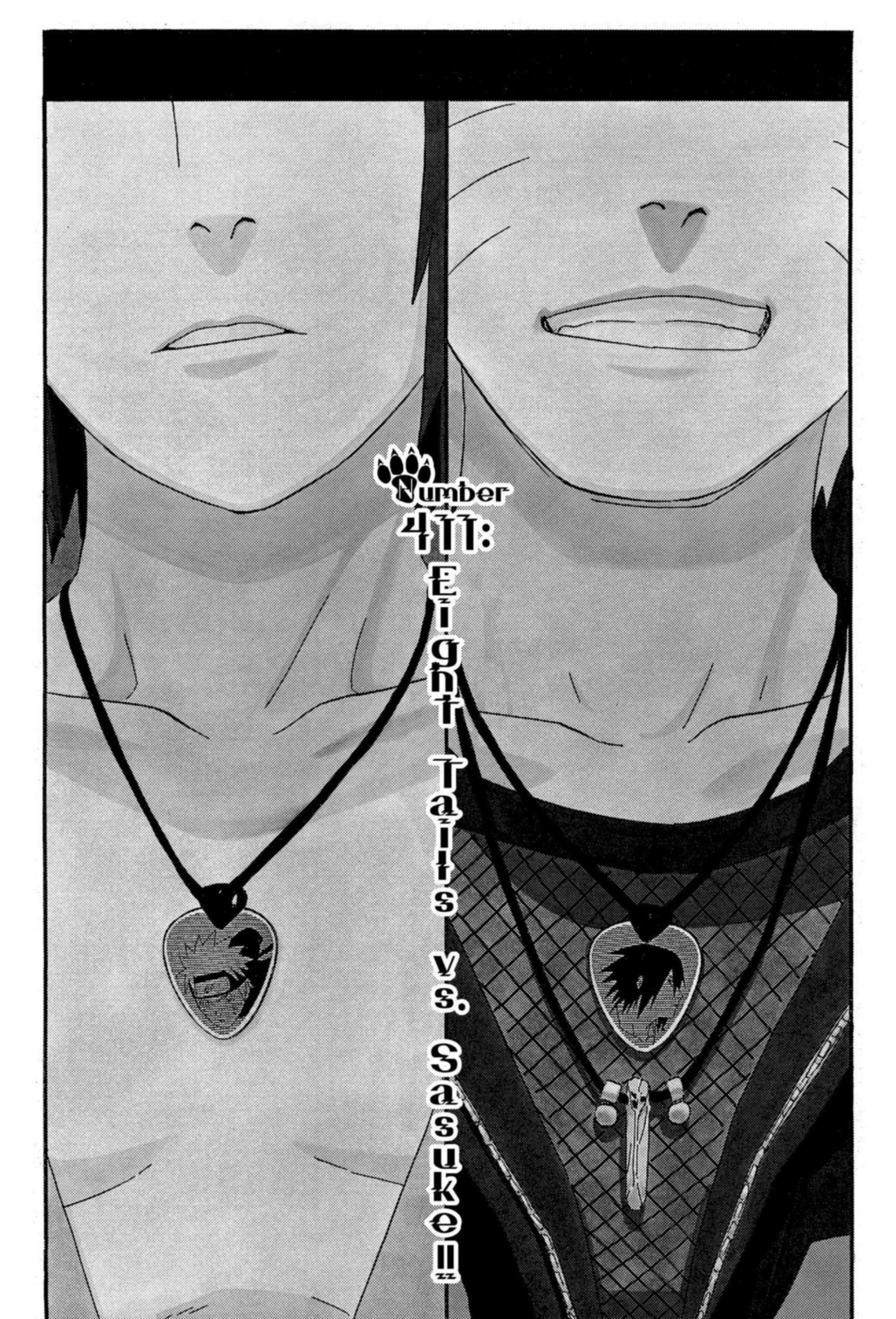

...
RMMMR...
BIT MY TONGUE ...


HE'S ALSO WIELDING MY EXECUTIONER'S BLADE SO SMOOTHLY...
WHO AND WHAT IS HE...


UGH...
ZWOOO...




I'LL DO IT.
SHUP

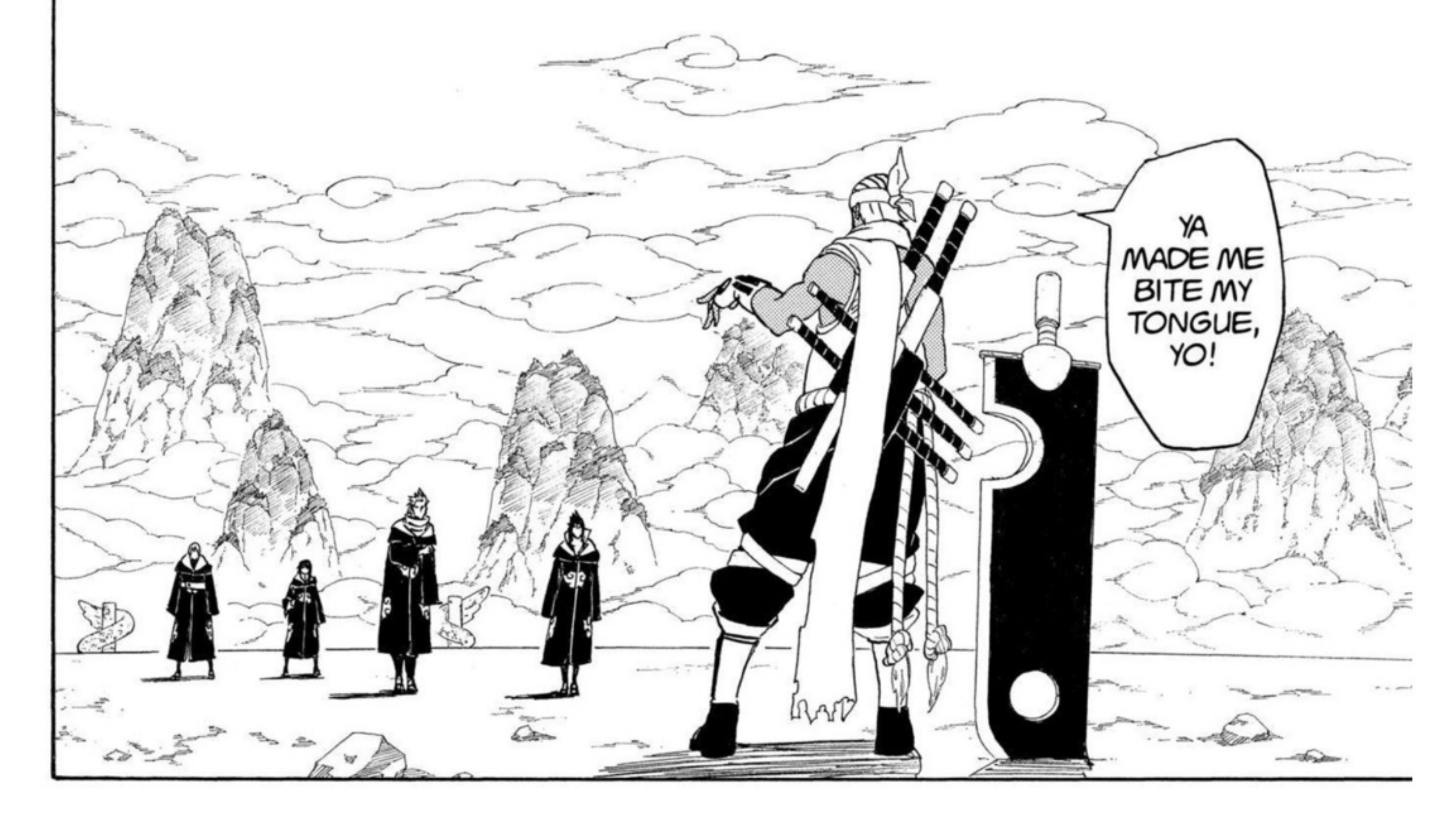

Number 411: Eight Tails vs. Sasuke!!




SHUP


FSH...

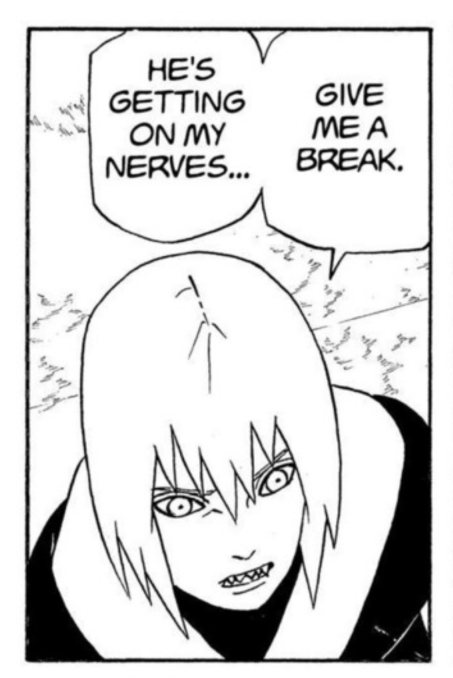

SHUP


YA MADE ME BITE MY TONGUE, YO!


SHUP

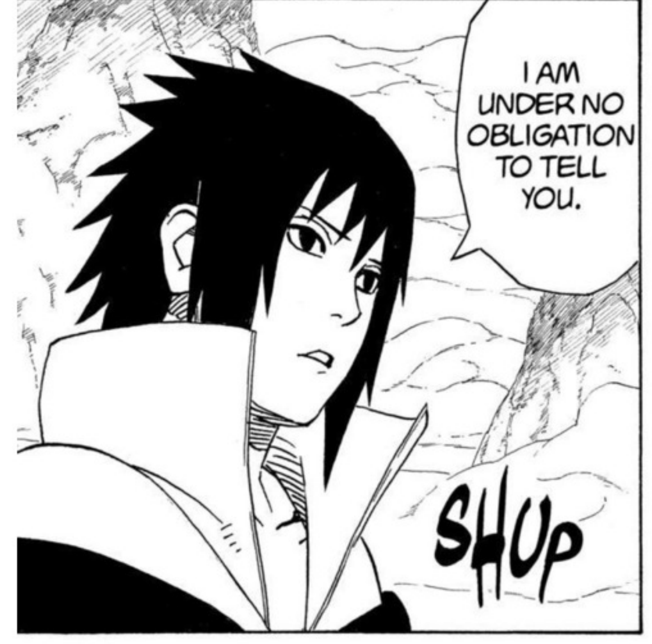

YOU ALL RIGHT, JUGO?
TWP
...


WHO THE HECK ARE Y'ALL?
FOOLS, YA FOOLS ♪


GIVE ME A BREAK.
HE'S GETTING ON MY NERVES...


READ THIS WAY

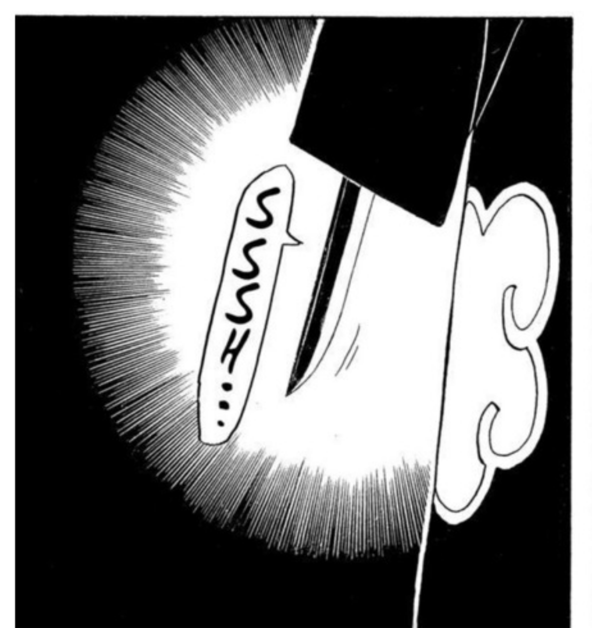

YO, WHO ARE YA?
WHY YA WANNA CAPTURE ME? EH?!


I AM UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO TELL YOU.
SHUP


WHY DO WE HAVE TO FIGHT SUCH A WEIRD RHYMING FELLOW ANYWAY...
...WHAT A BOTHER.


IN ORDER TO OBTAIN POWER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, LEAVE.
THAT'S *YOUR* PREROGATIVE.


AND I WANT TO CONFIRM WHETHER THEIR PROMISE...
FRAMP FRAMP
...TO GIVE US THE TAILED BEASTS IS TRUE OR FALSE.


SSSH...

EITHER WAY, **WE'RE** THE ONES WHO ARE GOING TO USE THE AKATSUKI, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

DON'T EVER FORGET THAT.

KLIK










READ
THIS
WAY


OKAY, LET'S HURRY UP AND SHUT UP THIS WITLESS PAIN IN THE EAR.


THAT'S THE PLAN.


I AM **NOT** WITLESS, YO! I GOT CHARMIN' FLOW, FOOL!
DUNF
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!


...UGH... WHAT A JOKE!
SQK
HE'S GOT AB-SOLUTELY ZERO RAPPING TALENT!


PLINK





KLAK
SKLANN
VWOO
SKRITCH


KLAN
GO
SHKU
NK
TAK
?!

!

TMP

THUD







RMMMR RMMMR
FFSH
SCRITCH SCRITCH
SSH
?
TMP
...
FTOK









THIS GUY'S USED TO HANDLING BLADES...

HE'S NOT AN ORDINARY SHINOBI!

WATCH OUT, SASUKE!

?!

SHOOP

SHOOP SHOOP SHOOP

SHOOP











I'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF MY HOOK.

FWOO...

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT STANCE?

TAK

!

KLA-KLA-KLANG

TMP

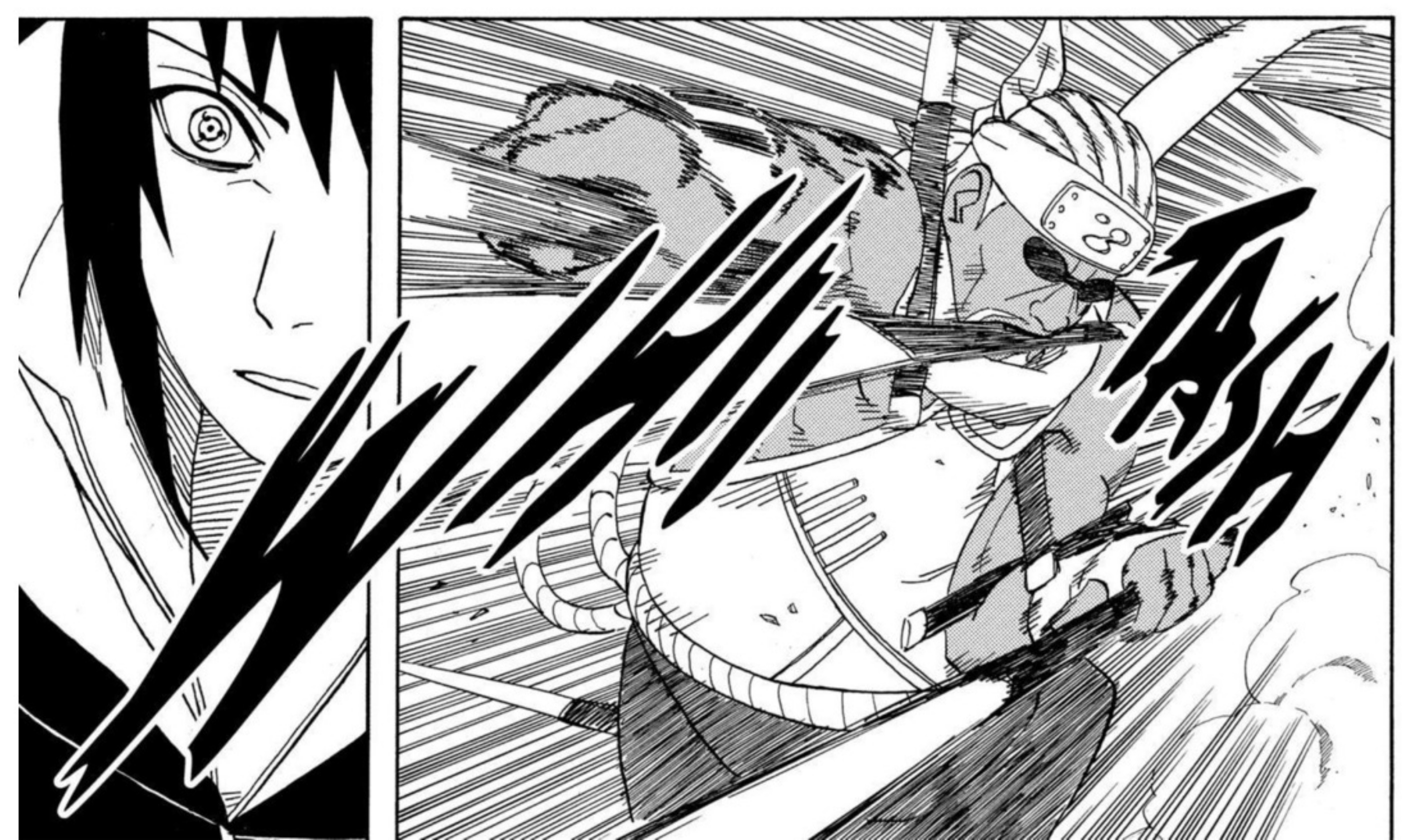
KLA-KLA-KLA-KLA-KLA-KLA-KLA-KLA-KLANG

TAK

TAK

FTAP

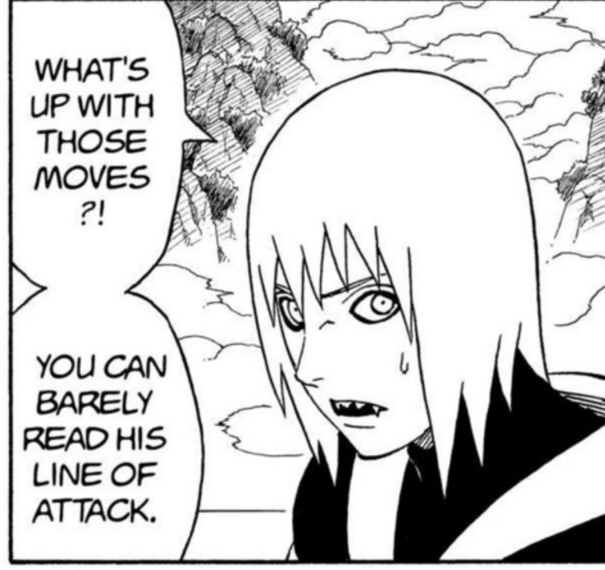
TAMP



THUD


SKRITCH


SASUKE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!


WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE MOVES ?!
YOU CAN BARELY READ HIS LINE OF ATTACK.


SHRUTCH


READ THIS WAY


FWP
FWP


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP


THE CHIDORI BLADE...
...HE'S GOING TO USE SOMETHING THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEND AGAINST.

TAK

KLIK


?!


WHAT ?!




HE CAN STREAM HIS CHAKRA THROUGH OTHER OBJECTS TOO?!


!


YO, FIRST I'M A' GONNA FLOAT N' FLY... LIKE A BUTTAFLY ♪



SHKUNK

SHKUNK

SHKUNK

SHKUNK

THEN I STING YA LIKE A KILLA' BEE ♪


NARUTO


BWHAM
Number 412:
Quivers of Anticipation
!
SASUKE !!
AND I END MY FLO' WITH DA FINISHIN' BLOW ♪
TAK



KLA
!
...
BZZZZZ
HE ALSO USES MY WEAK POINT, RAITON JUTSU...!

G-G-G-G
SHKD
SHKD
TMP
FOOMF
TIKRAK
SHKD
SHKD
SHKD
SHKD
SHKD

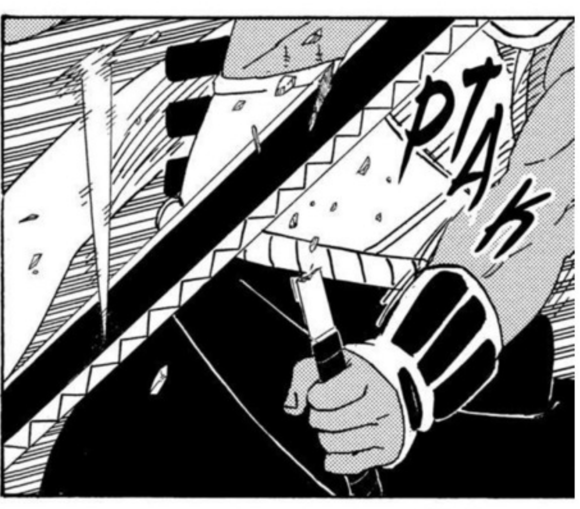
THUDD

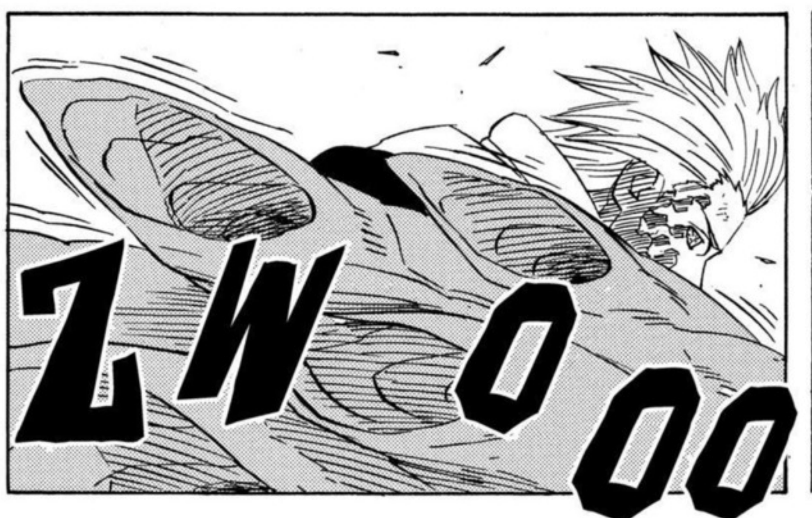
FWHAP

SHRRRUK

FWOP

HAH!



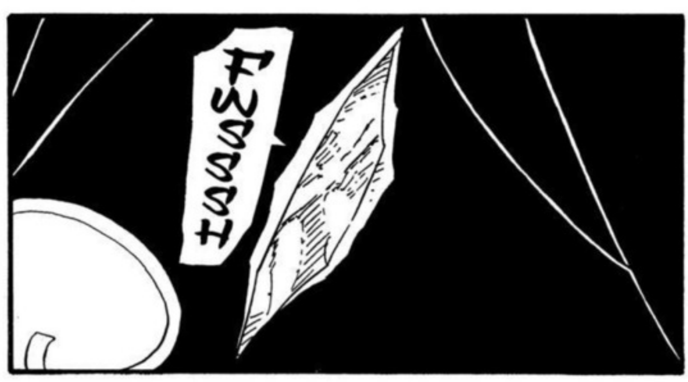
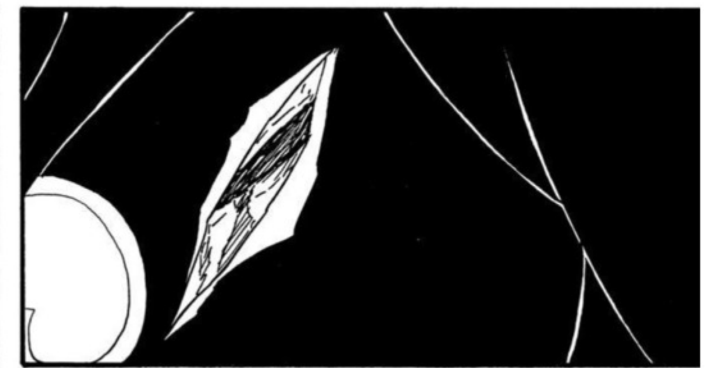



WHOMP
BAKOOMT
KABOOM
THIS IS NOT GOOD ...!
SSH
KATOK
SASUKE!
SQUICH


HERE! HURRY UP AND BITE ME, SASUKE!
DO IT NOW!

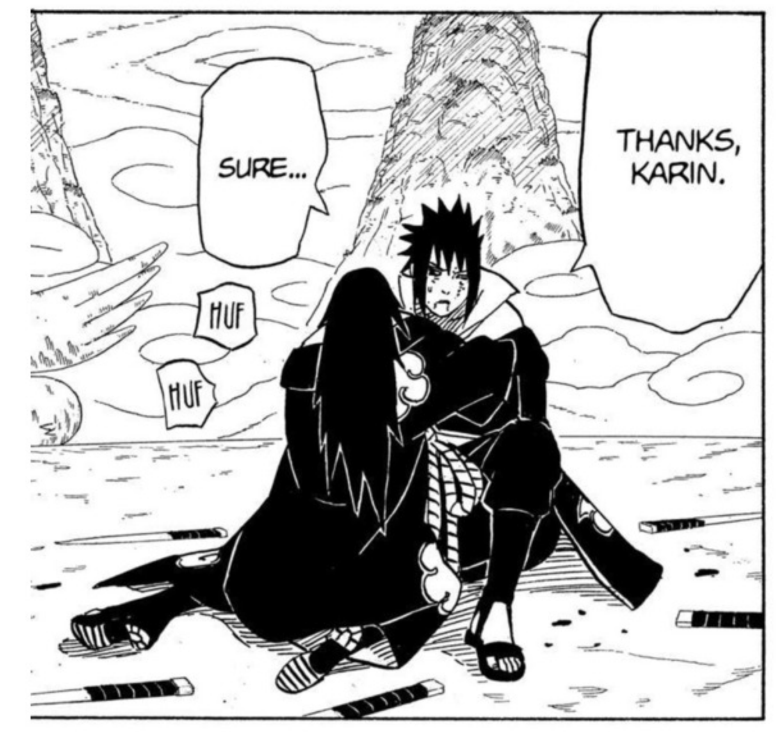
SSH...

UNNNNNH...

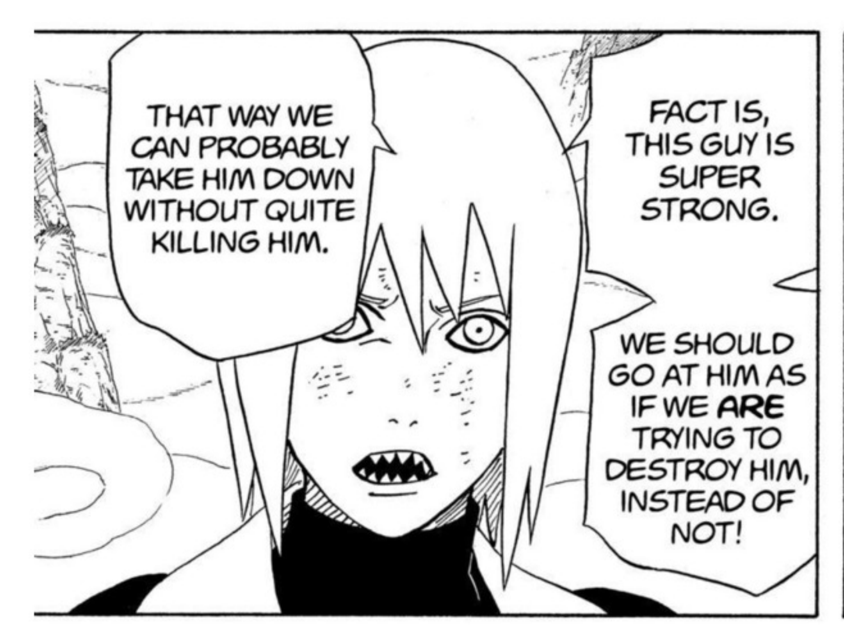

CHOMP

FWSSSH



READ
THIS
WAY

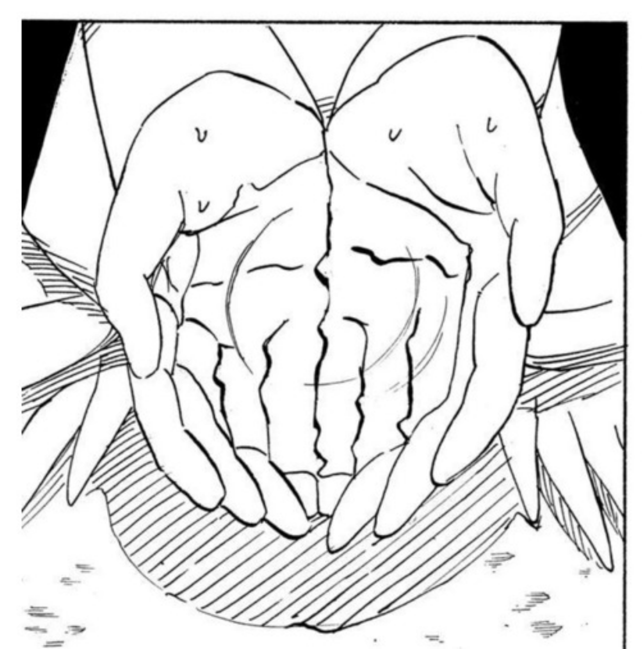



THANKS, KARIN.
SURE...
HUF
HUF


SASUKE, THE THREE OF US WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
HUF
HUF


FACT IS, THIS GUY IS SUPER STRONG.
WE SHOULD GO AT HIM AS IF WE ARE TRYING TO DESTROY HIM, INSTEAD OF NOT!
THAT WAY WE CAN PROBABLY TAKE HIM DOWN WITHOUT QUITE KILLING HIM.


IT SEEMS BY STREAMING RAITON THROUGH HIS BODY TO DEFLECT MY ATTACKS, HE AVOIDED MORTAL INJURY.
AND... THAT WOMAN POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO HEAL OTHERS BY LETTING THEM SUCK HER CHAKRA, HUH, FEH FEH FEH.



SPLOOISH

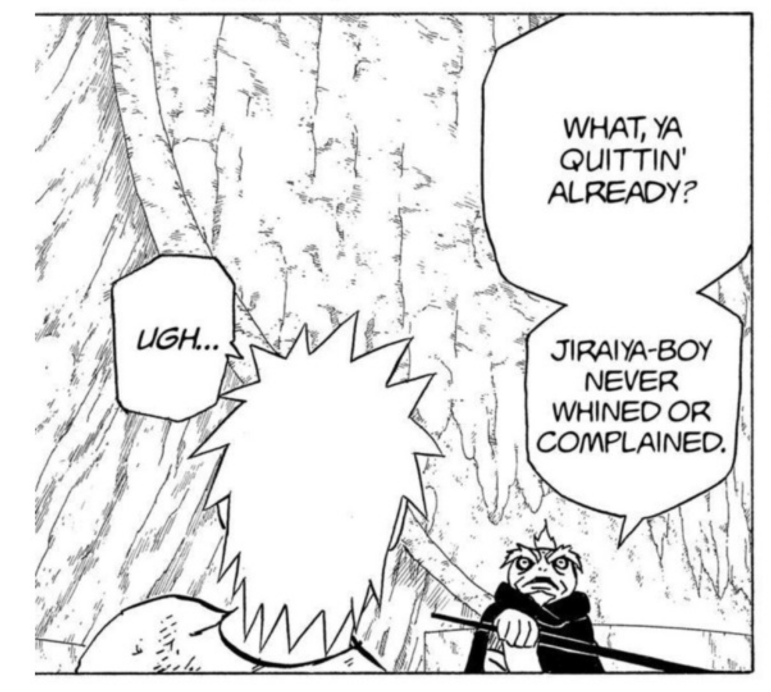







READ
THIS
WAY


WAAH! TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO BE BRUISED AND BLEEDING ON THE INSIDE.
SHWOO SHWOO

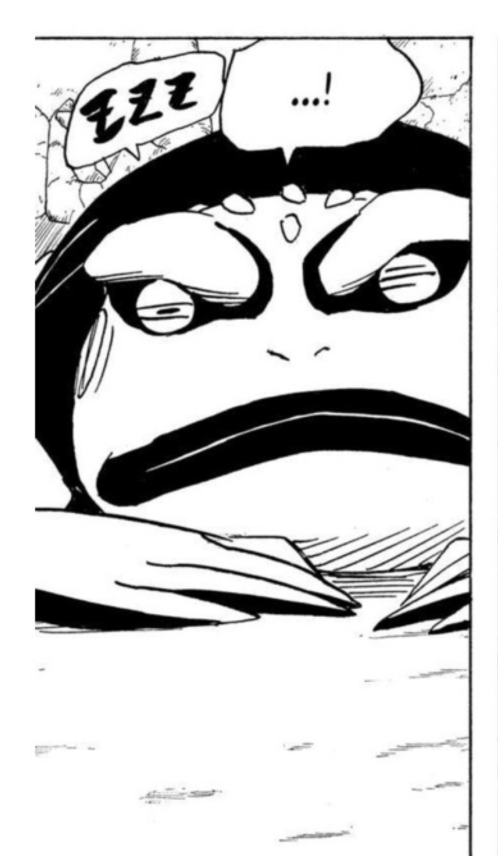

WHAT, YA QUITTIN' ALREADY?
JIRAIYA-BOY NEVER WHINED OR COMPLAINED.
UGH...


HEY— I KNOW A MUCH BETTER TRAINING METHOD!
EH? WHAT'S THAT?

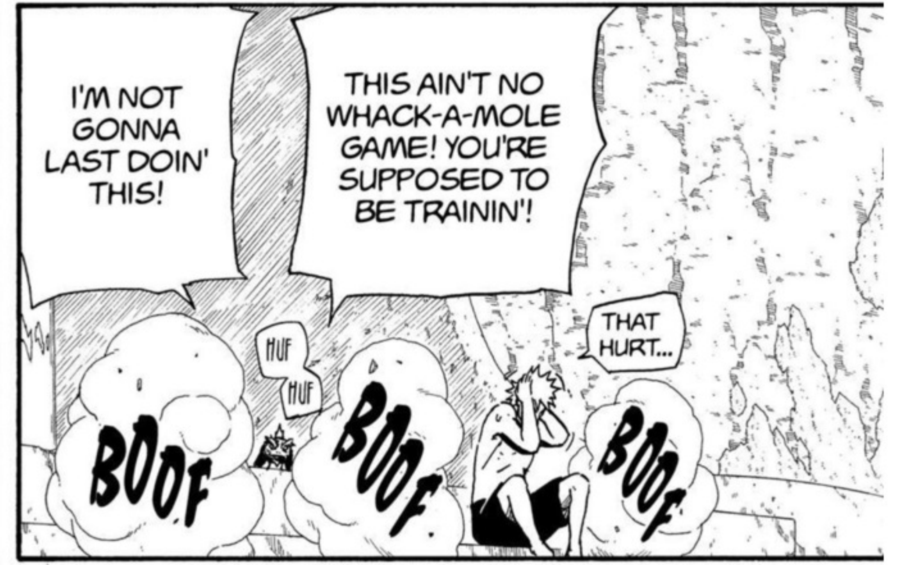

TRAINING WITH SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS.
THEY EXPONENTIALLY INCREASE MY PROGRESS!


WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT WHATEVER SHADOW DOPPELGANGERS EXPERIENCE REVERTS BACK TO THE ORIGINAL...
...IF ANY OF THEM TRANS-FORMS INTO A FROG, YER DONE FOR!


I KNOW, I KNOW!
ME N' MY BATON CAN'T KEEP UP WITH ANY MORE THAN FOUR AT THE MOST!


...!
ZZZ

OW!
ARGH!
OWW!!
GAH!!
THOK
WHACK
THWAP
WHACK


THAT HURT...
BOOF
THIS AIN'T NO WHACK-A-MOLE GAME! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TRAININ'!
BOOF
HUF HUF
I'M NOT GONNA LAST DOIN' THIS!
BOOF


SHOOT...


!


OWW!
THWACK!
MY FACE IS PUFFED UP FROM YOUR BEATINGS, NOT CUZ I'M TURNING INTO A FROG!


...


READ THIS WAY

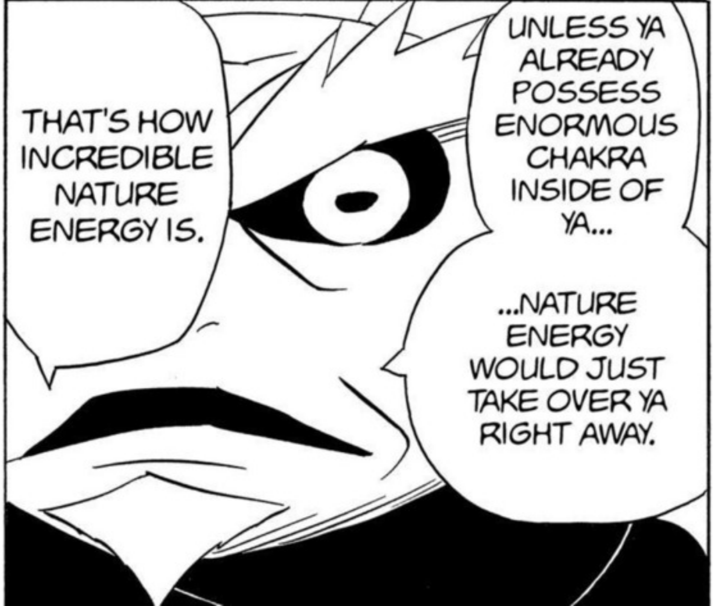

UNH... OWWW...
I NEVER THOUGHT TRYING TO SENSE NATURE ENERGY WOULD BE THIS HARD...


ONLY THROUGH PERSEVERANCE SHALL TRUE STRENGTH BE GAINED.
I KNOW!
IF IT CAN MAKE ME AS STRONG AS PERVY SAGE, I'LL PUT UP WITH ANY-THING!


NAH...THAT'S NOT ALWAYS ENOUGH.
?


NOT EVERYBODY CAN MASTER THIS TRAININ'...
YOU COULD SAY IT'S ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE IT'S YOU AND JIRAIYA-BOY...
...OR ELSE I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN BROUGHT YA HERE.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


UNLESS YA ALREADY POSSESS ENORMOUS CHAKRA INSIDE OF YA...
...NATURE ENERGY WOULD JUST TAKE OVER YA RIGHT AWAY.
THAT'S HOW INCREDIBLE NATURE ENERGY IS.


...

PLUS, YA GOTTA HAVE GUTS N' NEVER GIVE UP...
THAT'S WHO CAN BECOME A SAGE.










THOK
FSH
SWISH
SHOOM
KLANG
KLANG
TAK
THUD
SPLOCH
SASUKE, NOW! JUST DO THE BOTH OF US!!
CHIRP CHIRP
!

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

UGH!

CHI-DORI!

WAAAAH!!

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

BWHAM



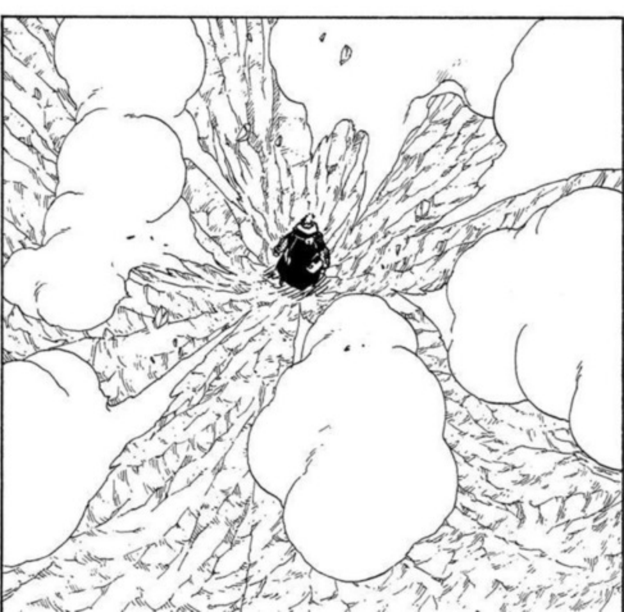


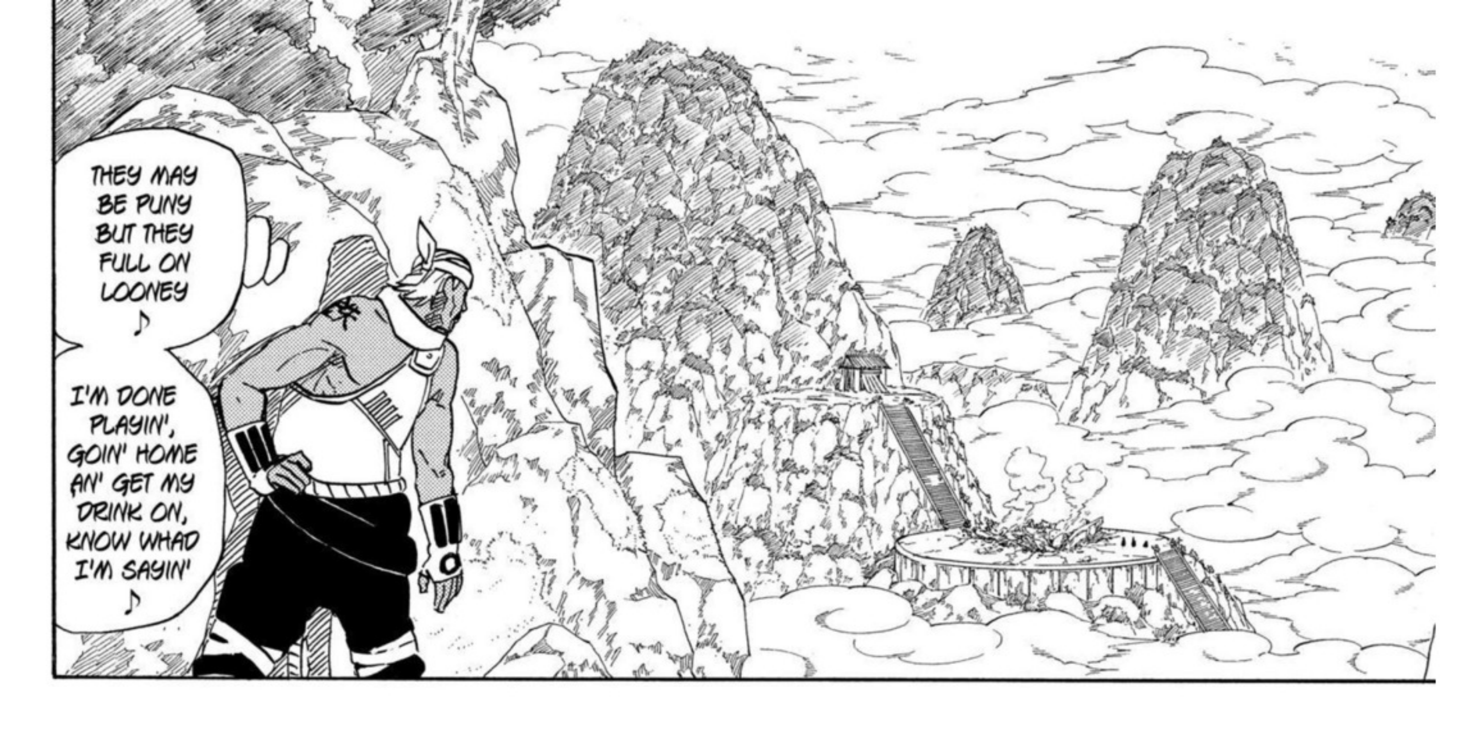
BOOM
TAK
SWSH



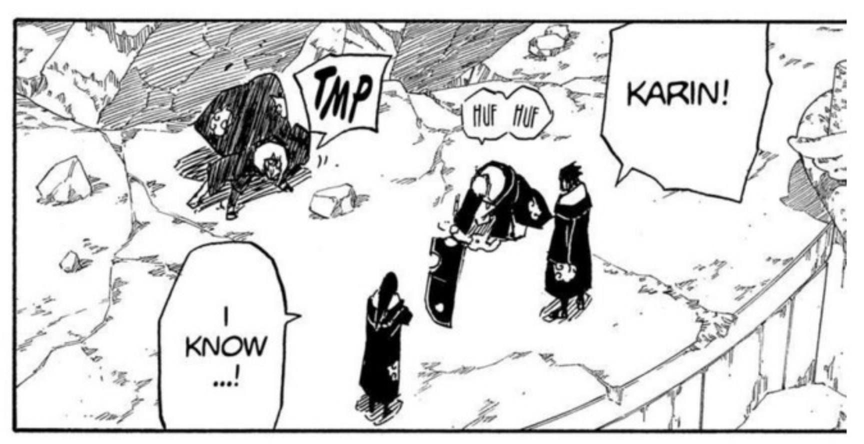







THEY MAY BE PUNY BUT THEY FULL ON LOONEY ♪
I'M DONE PLAYIN', GOIN' HOME AN' GET MY DRINK ON, KNOW WHAD I'M SAYIN' ♪


HE'S OVER THERE!


KARIN!
HUF HUF
TMP
I KNOW ...!




VWOOSH


ZWOO
TMP


SHE'S ALSO A SENSORY-TYPE, TOO, HUH... THAT WOMAN.


READ THIS WAY
CAN'T BE HELPED. HERE COMES DA EIGHTH!
SWSH
KP-TOINK
WHEEEEEEEEEE!!!!!
TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOLUME 45!